

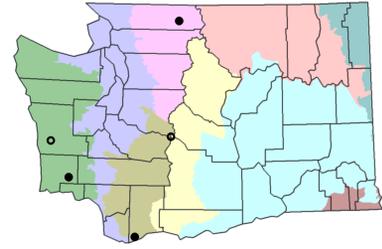
Carex macrochaeta C. A. Mey.

large-awned sedge

Cyperaceae - sedge family

status: State Threatened, BLM sensitive, USFS sensitive

rank: G5 / S1



General Description: Perennial 1-7 dm tall; stems aphyllopodic, loosely clustered on short, branching rhizomes. Roots have a cream-colored to yellowish brown felty covering. Leaves few, flat, 2-5 mm wide, hairless.

Floral Characteristics: Male spike mostly solitary, sometimes 2-3, terminal, 1-3 cm long, with dark awn-tipped scales. Female spikes 1-4; the lowest spike loose or nodding on a slender, nodding, often elongate peduncle, subtended by a sheathless or short-sheathed leafy bract. Female scales dark, often with a paler midvein, awns 2-12 mm long. Perigynia hairless, narrow, lance-elliptic, light green to dark purplish, 3.8-6.8 mm long, nerves 10-15, beakless or with a very short beak less than 0.2 mm. Stigmas 3. Anthers 3.3-5 mm. Flowers May to July.



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Fruits: Achenes 3-angled, 1.7-2.3 mm long, loosely enclosed in the lower half of the perigynium.

Identification Tips: *C. macrochaeta* has conspicuously awn-tipped female scales; at least some of the awns in each spike are greater than 2 mm long. *Carex pluriflora* and *C. limosa* also have roots covered with a yellowish brown felt, but have awnless female scales and conspicuously papillate perigynia. *C. magellanica* ssp. *irrigua** has shorter female scale awns (up to 3 mm), shorter anthers (1.6-2.5 mm), and smaller perigynia (2.5-3.6 mm long). *C. spectabilis* also has short female scale awns (up to 1 mm).



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Range: Northeast coast of Asia, east through the Aleutian Islands to AK, and south through B.C. to WA.

Habitat/Ecology: In moist open places, including seeps, wet meadows, and around streams, lakes and waterfalls, frequently near the coast. Associated species include Sitka alder (*Alnus viridis* ssp. *sinuata*), Oregon sullivania (*Sullivantia oregana*), white shooting star (*Dodecatheon dentatum*), and bronze bells (*Stenanthium occidentale*). Elevations in WA: 365-975 m (1200-3200 ft).

Comments: This species is also rare in OR and the Yukon.

References: Flora of North America 1993+, vol. 23.



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