



Maine Department of Conservation  
Natural Areas Program

*Carex baileyi* Britt.

**Bailey's Sedge**

**Habitat:** Swampy woods and meadows. [Forested wetland]

**Range:** Maine to Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee.

**Phenology:** Fruits June - August.

**Family:** Cyperaceae

**Aids to Identification:** Identification of species of the genus *Carex* is usually difficult and dependent upon rather technical characters. *C. baileyi* is in the section *Vesicariae* which is characterized by broadly shaped, thin-walled perigynia, less than 10mm long; and erect pistillate spikes. This species can be distinguished from others in its group by its awned floral scales; inflated ovoid-glabose perigynia, and perigynia with a long, slender beak that exceeds the length of the true body. The very common *Carex lurida* is similar to *Carex baileyi* but larger overall.

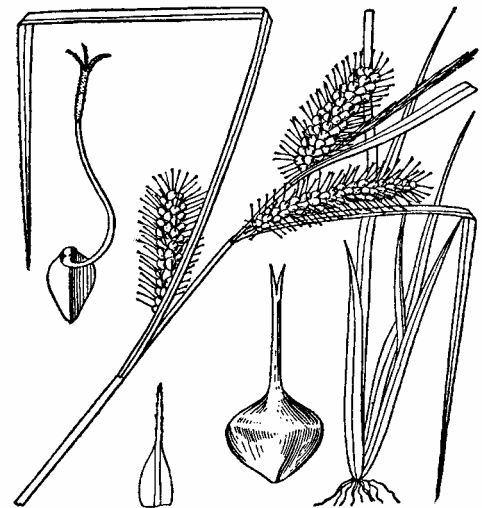


Illustration from Britton & Brown's Illustrated Flora of the Northern United States and Canada, 2nd ed.

**Ecological characteristics:** In Maine the few known occurrences of this sedge were in mixed woods.

**Synonyms:**

**Rarity of *Carex baileyi***

<b>State Rank:</b>	SH	Historical occurrence, has not been seen in the state within the past 20 years. Not known to have been extirpated
<b>New England Rank:</b>	Division 3:ME	Locally rare plant: Not rare throughout New England, but Maine occurrences are disjunct or ecologically anomalous from the rest of its New England range.
<b>Global Rank:</b>	G4	Widespread, abundant, and apparently secure globally, but with cause for long-term concern.

**Status of *Carex baileyi***

<b>Federal Status:</b>	None	No Federal Status.
<b>State Status:</b>	Special Concern	
<b>Proposed State Status:</b>	Possibly Extirpated	Has not been field verified or documented in Maine within the past 20 years.



- ▲ Historical (before 1982)  
● Recent (1982 - present)

### Known Distribution in Maine:

This rare plant has been documented from a total of 4 town(s) in the following county(ies): Cumberland, Oxford, Somerset.

**Dates of documented observations are:** 1915, 1946 (2), 1973

### Reason(s) for rarity:

At northern limit of range. Possibly overlooked because of similarity to the very common *Carex lurida*.

### Conservation considerations:

Unknown; virtually no current information on this species in Maine.

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The information in this fact sheet was downloaded from the Natural Areas Program's Biological and Conservation Database on 11 MAY 2004. We are grateful to our Botanical Advisory Group for additional information on particular species, and in particular, to Arthur Haines for his assistance with identifying characteristics and taxonomic questions. Nomenclature follows Haines and Vining's *Flora of Maine* (V.F. Thomas Press, 1998); where older works refer to a plant by another name, it is given under "Synonyms". The Natural Areas Program, within the Department of Conservation, maintains the most comprehensive source of information on Maine's rare or endangered plants and rare or exemplary natural communities, and is a member of the Association for Biodiversity Information.

If you know of locations for this plant or would like more information on this species,  
please contact the Natural Areas Program  
State House Station 93, Augusta, Maine 04333; telephone (207) 287-8044.

