



Maine Department of Conservation
Natural Areas Division

Carex crawei Dewey

Crawe's Sedge

Habitat: Calcareous shores, gravels, meadows and glades. [Non-tidal rivershore (non-forested, seasonally wet)]

Range: Quebec to British Columbia, south to New Jersey, Tennessee, Alabama, and Arkansas.

Phenology: Fruits June - July.

Family: Cyperaceae

Aids to Identification: Identification of species of the genus *Carex* is usually difficult and dependent upon rather technical characters. *C. crawei* is in the section *Granulares* and it is distinguished by the following characteristics: stiff, solitary to loosely clustered stems to 10-30 cm, growing from long rhizomes; leaves are thick, stiff, and light green; terminal spike is 1-2 cm long, on a long stalk; perigynia, 2.1-3.5 mm long with short straight beaks, are crowded into rows, with red-brown carpellate scales. The terminal staminate spike is on a long peduncle.

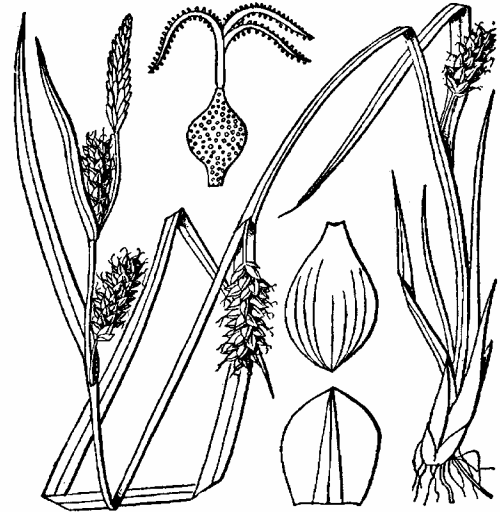


Illustration from Britton & Brown's Illustrated Flora of the Northern United States and Canada, 2nd ed.

Ecological characteristics: Not well known. Current locations are in seepy early successional grassy areas with either natural or human disturbance.

Synonyms:

Rarity of *Carex crawei*

State Rank:	S1	Critically imperiled in Maine because of extreme rarity or vulnerability to extirpation.
New England Rank:	Division 2	Regionally rare plant: Fewer than 20 current (seen since 1970) occurrences within New England.
Global Rank:	G5	Demonstrably widespread, abundant, and secure globally.

Status of *Carex crawei*

Federal Status:	None	No Federal Status.
State Status:	Endangered	
Proposed State Status:	Endangered	Rare and in danger of being lost from the state in the foreseeable future; or federally listed as Endangered. Listing criteria met: Few individuals, Special habitat, Vulnerable to human activity



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

Known Distribution in Maine:

This rare plant has been documented from a total of 5 town(s) in the following county(ies): Aroostook, Knox.

Dates of documented observations are: 1902 (2), 1941, 1987, 1998

Reason(s) for rarity:

Scarcity of suitable habitat; appears to be scarce throughout its U.S. range.

Conservation considerations:

Unknown.

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.

