



Maine Department of Conservation
Natural Areas Program

Carex siccata Dewey

Dry Land Sedge

Habitat: Dry, sterile or sandy soil, in open places in light shade [Old field/roadside (non-forested, wetland or upland)]

Range: Maine to Alaska, south to Rhode Island and New Jersey, Minnesota, and Arizona.

Phenology: Fruits May - July.

Family: Cyperaceae



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

Aids to Identification: Members of this genus can be difficult to identify without careful examination of microscopic features and knowledge of general groups of species. *Carex siccata* is in the group *Arenaria*, which has short, unstalked spikes crowded densely together. The leaves do not form basal clusters, and the stems arise from long rhizomes. *C. siccata* is an erect sedge, growing singly or in small clumps, 15-40 cm tall, from tough rhizomes. The leaves are flat, 1.5-3 mm wide, and generally only growing from the lower quarter of the stem. The leaf sheaths are very thin, and there are generally 4-12 flowering spikes arranged in a cylindric cluster. *Carex siccata* is the only sedge in Maine with both wing-margined perigynia and stems arising from long rhizomes (the ovales are cespitose species).

Ecological characteristics: Sites in Maine where this sedge has been found are in dry, old fields in the early stages of succession.

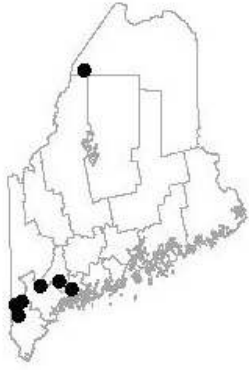
Synonyms: *Carex foenea* Willd. of Gray's Manual, Eighth Edition (Fernald 1950), but that name incorrectly applied.

Rarity of *Carex siccata*

State Rank:	S2	Imperiled in Maine because of rarity or vulnerability to further decline.
New England Rank:	None	
Global Rank:	G5	Demonstrably widespread, abundant, and secure globally.

Status of *Carex siccata*

Federal Status:	None	No Federal Status.
State Status:	Special Concern	



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

Known Distribution in Maine:

This rare plant has been documented from a total of 8 town(s) in the following county(ies): Androscoggin, Aroostook, Oxford, York.

Dates of documented observations are: 1932, 1943, 1997, 1998 (2), 2000, 2001 (3), 2002 (2)

Reason(s) for rarity:

Unknown.

Conservation considerations:

This plant is restricted statewide to southern Maine with a disjunct population in northern Maine, and known populations are vulnerable to conversion of their habitat to residential or commercial use.

The information in this fact sheet was downloaded from the Natural Areas Program's Biological and Conservation Database on 12 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.

