



Maine Department of Conservation
Natural Areas Program

Carex typhina Michx.

Cat-tail Sedge

Habitat: Calcareous meadows and wooded bottomlands. [Forested wetland; Open wetland, not coastal nor rivershore (non-forested, wetland)]

Range: Central Maine and southwest Quebec to Wisconsin, south to Georgia, and west to Louisiana.

Phenology: Fruits July - August.

Family: Cyperaceae

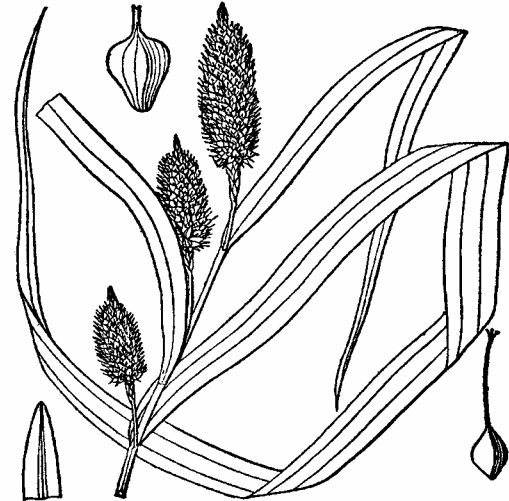


Illustration from Britton & Brown's Illustrated Flora of the Northern United States and Canada, 2nd ed.

Aids to Identification: Identification of species of the genus *Carex* is usually difficult and dependent upon rather technical characters. *Carex typhina* is in the section *Squarrosae*, a group recognized by its inflated perigynia with an abruptly tapered bi-dentate beak. *Carex typhina* has long, arching culms that generally overtop the dense, cylindric inflorescences. The achenes are trigonous with a straight style. It is the only member of its section in Maine.

Ecological characteristics: The lone population in Maine is found in a silver maple floodplain forest where plants are inundated annually in the spring. Other members of the genus frequently found growing with *C. typhina* include *C. lurida*, *C. lupulina*, and *C. intumescens*, as well as with *Onoclea sensibilis* and *Lyonia ligustrina* in the understory. Apparently not rare in the southern portion of its range.

Synonyms:

Rarity of *Carex typhina*

State Rank:	S1	Critically imperiled in Maine due to extreme rarity and vulnerability to extirpation
New England Rank:	None	
Global Rank:	G5	Demonstrably widespread, abundant, and secure globally.

Status of *Carex typhina*

Federal Status:	None	No Federal Status.
State Status:	Special Concern	
Proposed State Status:	Special Concern	Rare in Maine, based on available information, but not sufficiently rare to be considered Threatened or Endangered

Known Distribution in Maine:

This rare plant has been documented from a total of 2 town(s) in the following county(ies): Androscoggin, Kennebec.

Dates of documented observations are: 1940, 2002

Reason(s) for rarity:

At northeastern limit of range; calcareous habitat is naturally scarce.

Conservation considerations:

Maintain hydrology of floodplain forest.

The information in this fact sheet was downloaded from the Natural Areas Program's Biological and Conservation Database on 04 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.

