

Maine.gov

Agencies | Online Services | Help | Search Maine.gov

Select Language

DEPARTMENT OF

Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Contact Us | Get Email/SMS Updates | News | Online Services | Sitemap

About DACFAnimals & PlantsForestGeologyRecreationFarmingPlanningLicensing & RegulationsBureaus & Programs

DACF Home → Bureaus & Programs → Maine Natural Areas Program → Communities, Plants, and Animals → Rare Plants → Carex vacillans

About MNAP
Focus Areas
Communities, Plants and Animals
Natural Communities and Ecosystems
Rare Plants
Invasive Plants
Ecological Inventory and Monitoring
Rare Animals
State and Global Rarity Ranks
Survey Forms
Maps, Data, and Technical Assistance
Ecological Reserves

Maine Natural Areas Program

Carex vacillans Drej. ex Hartman

Brackish Sedge

- State Rank: S2
- Global Rank: GNR
- State Status: Endangered

Habitat: Saline, brackish shores, swales, salt and intertidal marshes. [Tidal wetland (non-forested wetland)]

Range: Maritime provinces and Quebec south to Massachusetts. Also in Scandinavia.

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 vacillans* is a member of the section *Phacocystis*, a group recognized by its beakless perigynia on peduncled spikes (sometimes appearing sessile). *Carex vacillans* has erect spikes and perigynia with a short awn. *C. vacillans* is often confused with *C. recta*. In some past manuals, *C. vacillans* has been incorrectly applied to *C. recta*. *Carex vacillans* has conspicuously nerved perigynia with dense papillose hairs on the surface. The achenes are dull and weakly invaginated. *Carex recta* has short papillose and an inconspicuously nerved perigynia, with strongly invaginated achenes.

Ecological characteristics: Possibly of hybrid origin between *Carex. nigra* and *C. paleacea*. Only recently recognized as an individual species. Included in *C. recta* in past treatments. Known only from saltmarshes in Maine.

Phenology: Fruiting in June through August.


Family: Cyperaceae

Synonyms: *Carex x super-goodenoughii* (Kükenth.) Lepage


Known Distribution in Maine: This rare plant has been documented from a total of 4 towns in the following county(ies): Hancock, Washington.

Reason(s) for rarity: Restricted range, scarcity of suitable habitat.

Conservation considerations: Disturbances to salt marshes could be detrimental to populations.



Credits





Copyright © 2013
All rights reserved.


Information


[Maine.gov](#)
[Site Policies](#)
[Accessibility](#)
[Comments/Questions](#)
[Jobs @ DACF](#)
[Grants & Loans](#)
[Educational Resources](#)

Connect with Us

 Facebook

 Twitter

 YouTube

 Email/SMS Updates

[Event & Meeting Calendar](#)

Support DACF Programs

[Maine State Park Passes](#)
[Volunteer](#)
[Specialty License Plates](#)
[Outdoor Heritage Fund Lottery Ticket](#)
[Donations](#)

Contact

Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
22 State House Station
18 Elkins Lane
Augusta, ME 04333
More [Locations](#)

Phone: (207) 287-3200
Fax: (207) 287-2400
TTY: Maine Relay 711
DACF@Maine.gov

[See more social media...](#)

[See more choices...](#)