

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

### Scirpus pendulus Muhl.

#### Pendulous Bulrush

- [State Rank](#): S2
- [Global Rank](#): G5
- [State Status](#): Special Concern

**Habitat:** Marshes and wet meadows. [Open wetland, not coastal nor rivershore (non-forested, wetland); Old field/roadside (non-forested, wetland or upland)]

**Range:** Maine to Minnesota, South Dakota, and Colorado; south to Florida, New Mexico, and northern Mexico.

**Aids to Identification:** This perennial bulrush grows in dense, low tufts up to 1.5 meters in height. The flower clusters are terminal on rigid stems. Each spikelet is borne singly on a pedicel and is 6-13 mm long. Scales have chestnut colored sides and a green central strip. The 6 bristles are brown, smooth, and twice as long as the achene, which is purple-brown, with a short beak. *S. pendulus* is most similar to members of the *S. cyperinus* complex in that it has smooth perianth bristles much longer than the achenes. But unlike that group, the spikelets are not wooly and the achenes are 1-1.2 mm long (vs. 0.6-1 mm).



**Ecological characteristics:** In Maine, this species is known to occur in roadside swales.

**Phenology:** Fruits June - July.

**Family:** Cyperaceae

**Synonyms:** *Scirpus lineatus* auct. non Michx.

**Known Distribution in Maine:** This rare plant has been documented from a total of 8 town(s) in the following county(ies): Cumberland, Penobscot, York.

**Reason(s) for rarity:** At northern limit of range.

**Conservation considerations:** This plant occurs in a few small wetlands or moist pockets along roadsides. Some road maintenance is obviously compatible with the species, but populations could be vulnerable to road-widening or extensive shoulder work.

#### Credits



#### Information

[Maine.gov](#)  
[Site Policies](#)

#### Connect with Us



#### Support DACF Programs




[Maine State Park Passes](#)

#### Contact

Department of Agriculture,  
Conservation and Forestry  
22 State House Station

Copyright © 2013  
All rights reserved.

- [Accessibility](#)
- [Comments/Questions](#)
- [Jobs @ DACF](#)
- [Grants & Loans](#)
- [Educational Resources](#)

-  [Twitter](#)
-  [YouTube](#)
-  [Email/SMS Updates](#)
- [Event & Meeting Calendar](#)
- [See more social media...](#)

- [Volunteer](#)
- [Specialty License Plates](#)
- [Outdoor Heritage Fund Lottery Ticket](#)
- [Donations](#)
- [See more choices...](#)

18 Elkins Lane  
Augusta, ME 04333  
More [Locations](#)  
  
Phone: (207) 287-3200  
Fax: (207) 287-2400  
TTY: Maine Relay 711  
[DACF@Maine.gov](mailto:DACF@Maine.gov)