



Carex bicknellii Britt.

Bicknell's Sedge

Habitat: Open woods, fields, meadows in moist or dry soil.
[old field/roadside (non-forested wetland or upland)]

Range: Maine south to Delaware, west to New Mexico,
North to Saskatchewan.

Phenology: Fruiting June through July.

Family: Cyperaceae

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. Bicknell's sedge is a member of the section *Ovales*, a group identified by its dense roundish head of fruits and perigynia (the inflated sac that enclosed the achene) with thin, winged margins. Bicknell's sedge has thin perigynia that are 2.2-4.8 mm wide and 4.2-7.0 mm long and exceed the length of the obtuse carpellate scales. There are fewer than 25 culms per clump and the leaf sheath is minutely hairy.

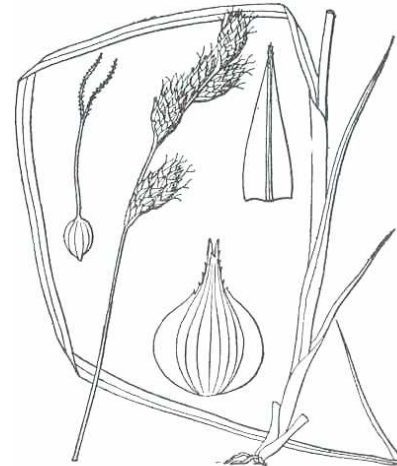


Illustration from Britton & Brown's
Illustrated Flora of the Northern United
States and Canada, 2nd ed.

Ecological characteristics: *Carex bicknellii* responds well to fire and disturbance. Maine populations are represented by *C. bicknellii* var. *bicknellii*.

Synonyms: Formerly known as *Carex straminea* var. *crawei* Boot.

Rarity of *Carex bicknellii*

State Rank:	S1	Critically imperiled in Maine due to extreme rarity or vulnerability to extirpation.
New England Rank:	INDT	Indeterminate. Under review for inclusion in appropriate division. Taxonomy, nomenclature, or status not clearly understood.
Global Rank:	G5	Widespread, abundant, and apparently secure globally.

Status of *Carex bicknellii*

Federal Status:	None	No Federal Status.
State Status:	Endangered	Rare and in danger of being lost from the state in the foreseeable future. Listing criteria met: at edge of range, few individuals, vulnerable to human activity.



Known Distribution in Maine:

This rare plant has been documented from a total of 1 town in the following county: Penobscot.

Dates of documented observations are: 1931, 1999

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

Reasons for rarity:

At northeast edge of range.

Conservation considerations:

The population seems to be persisting at only known location in Maine. The population is located on disturbed ground adjacent to railroad tracks. Plant appears to favor disturbance.

Plant rarity and status is based on 2008 data and the rest of the information in this fact sheet was downloaded from the Natural Areas Program's Biodiversity Tracking System on 20 Apr 2004. Nomenclature follows Haines and Vining's *Flora of Maine* (V.F. Thomas Press, 1998) and *Flora Novae Angliae* Tracheophyte Checklist (2004) available at: http://arthur_haines.tripod.com/checklist.htm. 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, threatened, and endangered plants and natural communities, and is a member of the Association of 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

