

CAREX DIANDRA Schrank
Lesser Panicked Sedge

FAMILY: Cyperaceae.

HABIT: Densely tufted perennial from a short, slender, blackish rootstalk, fertile culms 3-7 dm.; fruiting late May-June.

SIMILAR SPECIES: *Carex diandra* and *C. prairea* are very similar in general appearance and also grow in the same habitats. The following characters can help distinguish them: *C. diandra* has perigynia mostly exceeding their scales, leaf sheaths are pale with purplish dots; *C. prairea* has perigynia mostly shorter than their scales and leaf sheaths tinged with copper, especially towards the summit. *C. sartwellii* resembles these two species in general appearance, but can be separated from them by its elongate, fibrillose rootstalk and its non-branching spikelets.

TOTAL RANGE: Circumboreal in North America, s. to NJ, PA, IN, MO, CO, and CA.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): There are post-1980 records from 8 counties: Ashtabula, Champaign, Clark, Geauga, Logan, Portage, Summit, and Williams. There are pre-1980 records from 5 counties: Erie, Franklin, Lake, Licking, and Lorain.

HABITAT: A variety of wet, open situations, often in calcareous or neutral substrates; fens, wet prairies, meadows.

HAZARDS: Shading by woody species through succession, alien invasive species.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, but possibly good due to its rhizomatous habit.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect complete, mature specimens with underground parts.

COMMENTS: This species should be sought throughout glaciated Ohio. It is easily overlooked and/or mistaken for other species.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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Voss, E.G. 1972. Michigan flora, Part I, Gymnosperms and monocots. Cranbrook Inst. of Sci. Bull. 55, Bloomfield Hills, MI. 488 p.



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Revised: 1/2001 Richard L. Gardner