

CAREX GARBERI Fernald var. GARBERI
Garber's Sedge

FAMILY: Cyperaceae.

HABIT: Tufted perennial from an elongate, slender rootstalk, fertile culms 2- 3 dm.;
fruiting mid May-June.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Extremely similar to *Carex aurea*, from which it may be distinguished by the following characters: *C. garberi*--terminal spikelet staminate at base only, mature perigynia with a whitish and powdery appearance, pistillate scales blunt and as long as perigynia; *C. aurea*--terminal spikelet mostly all staminate, mature perigynia deep golden-orange in color, pistillate scales acute and mostly shorter than perigynia. Intergrades between these species exist.

TOTAL RANGE: Newfoundland to AK, s. to PA, n. IN, MN, NE, NM, and CA.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): There are post-1980 records from Erie and Ottawa counties. Braun (1967) lists it only from Ashtabula County.

HABITAT: A variety of wet, open situations on calcareous or sandy substrates; limestone exposures, quarries, seepages, beach pools, interdunal swales.

HAZARDS: Overgrowth by woody species through succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, but possibly good due to its rhizomatous habit and known occurrence in disturbed sites.

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

COMMENTS: The perigynia of this species are early deciduous, so it is easily seen only for a brief period. Probably it has been often overlooked and/or misidentified as *Carex aurea*. It should be sought in suitable habitats in those counties bordering Lake Erie.

Although intermediates have been reported between this species and *Carex aurea*, the two species in Ohio are easily separated. They have not been found growing together in our area.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Braun, E.L. 1967. The Monocotyledoneae of Ohio : Cat-tails to orchids. The Ohio State University Press, Columbus, OH. 464 p.

Gleason, H.A. and Cronquist, A. 1991. Manual of vascular plants of northeastern United States and adjacent Canada. 2nd ed. The New York Botanical Garden, Bronx NY. 910 pp.

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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