

CAREX LUCORUM Link
Fire Sedge

FAMILY: Cyperaceae

SYNONYMS: *Carex pensylvanica* var. *distans* Peck.

HABIT: Tufted perennial with long, slender rhizome, 1-5 dm; flowers and fruits May-June.

SIMILAR SPECIES: *Carex lucorum* and *Carex pensylvanica* can be distinguished from other members of the *Carex* section *Montanae* (*Acrocystis*) by their long slender rhizomes. *C. lucorum* can be differentiated from *C. pensylvanica* by careful measurement of the perigynium beak. The beak of *Carex lucorum* measures 0.9-2.0 mm and is half to as long as the perigynium body, whereas that of *C. pensylvanica* measures only 0.2-0.8 mm and is less than half the length of the perigynium body. (Crins and Ball 1983).

TOTAL RANGE: Nova Scotia and New Brunswick to NJ, PA, and s. Ontario, w. less commonly to MI, WI, and MN, and s. irregularly to NC and TN.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Lucas County.

HABITAT: Open, sandy woods and fields.

HAZARDS: Overgrowth by woody species as a result of succession; fire suppression; continuing development in the Oak Openings region.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Possibly good since fire and other management techniques are being used to curb succession in the Oak Openings preserves where the species has been found.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect complete specimens with underground rhizomes and mature perigynia.

COMMENTS: The species was discovered in dry, sandy fields that had been wooded, but were recently cleared and burned. The species was first discovered in Ohio in May 1993 at the Lou Campbell State Nature Preserve and subsequently located at the Kitty Todd Preserve. Although the taxon has long been recognized, considerable debate has taken place on whether to assign it species or varietal rank. The fact that *Carex lucorum* has a different chromosome number than *Carex pensylvanica* lends support to separate species status (Crins and Ball 1983).

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Crins, W.J. and P.W. Ball. 1983. The taxonomy of the *Carex Pensylvanica* complex (Cyperaceae) in North America. *Can. J. Bot.* 61: 1692-1717.

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