

CAREX MERRITT-FERNALDII Mack.
Fernald's Sedge

FAMILY: Cyperaceae

SYNONYMS: *Carex festucacea* of Gray's Manual ed. 7, not Schkuhr
Carex brevior

HABIT: Herbaceous perennial with stiff culms, up to 1 meter tall, in clumps; flowering and fruiting June-early August.

SIMILAR SPECIES: *C. merritt-fernaldii* is a member of the very difficult Ovales section. Two common species, *Carex brevior* and *Carex molesta*, resemble it in habit, shape of fruit and may occur in similar habitats.

TOTAL RANGE: Quebec to VA, w. to the Pacific.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): One post-1980 record from Lucas County.

HABITAT: Dry open meadows, sandy hillsides, and borders of woods.

HAZARDS: Overgrowth from woody species through succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, possibly good.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect mature specimens with underground parts.

COMMENTS: This species can be easily overlooked and/or misidentified and may be more frequent in Ohio than current records indicate. It should be sought in the Oak Openings region and other dry, open habitats in northern Ohio.

Gleason and Cronquist (1991) merge *C. merritt-fernaldii* under *C. brevior* without rank.

Braun (1967) reports a specimen from Lake county, but this specimen is misidentified.

Cusick (1996) discusses the history of this specimen.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Braun, E.L. 1967. The Monocotyledoneae [of Ohio]: Cat-tails to orchids. The Ohio State Univ. Press, Columbus, OH. 464 pp.

Cusick, A.W. 1996. Notes on selected species of *Carex* (Cyperaceae) in Ohio. *Castanea* 61(4): 382-390.

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

Mackenzie, K.K. 1931-35. Cariceae. In North American Flora 18: 1-478.

Voss, E.G. 1972. Michigan Flora, Part I. Gymnosperms and monocots. Cranbrook Inst. Sci. Bull. 59, Bloomfield Hills, MI. 488 pp.



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