

CAREX VIRIDULA Michx.
Little Green Sedge

FAMILY: Cyperaceae.

SYNONYMS: *Carex chlorophila* Mackenzie, in part. *Carex chlorophylla* Mackenzie, in part (see Comments).

HABIT: Tufted perennial from a short, upright rootstalk, fertile culms 6- 30 cm.; fruiting late May-September (see Comments).

SIMILAR SPECIES: In general appearance like *Carex cryptolepis* and *C. flava*, both of which grow in similar habitats. *C. viridula* can be distinguished from these two species by its small, bright green perigynia which are not reflexed.

TOTAL RANGE: Circumboreal, s. in America to NJ, IN, SD, and NM.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Champaign, Clark, Erie, Lucas, Ottawa, and Seneca counties. There are pre-1980 records from Summit County.

HABITAT: A variety of open, wet areas on calcareous or sandy substrates; often in exposed, nearly barren areas; fens, wet prairies, quarries, beach pools, interdunal swales.

HAZARDS: Overgrowth by woody species through succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Probably good since the species frequently grows in disturbed situations.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect complete, mature specimens.

COMMENTS: This species is fairly conspicuous and may be locally common in suitable habitats. It possibly can be misidentified, but is not likely to be overlooked during its extended anthesis.

In late summer there frequently is a second blooming period; these late-flowering plants tend to be more robust than those that bloom earlier. These tall, late-flowering plants have been called forma *intermedia* (Dudley) Hermann. More research is needed to ascertain its frequency in the Ohio populations of *C. viridula*, as well as its true taxonomic rank.

Mackenzie (1940) splits *C. chlorophylla* (*C. chlorophila*) from *C. viridula* based on rather minor characters. *C. chlorophylla* is not generally recognized by recent authors.

In other states, hybrids of *C. viridula* and the similar *C. flava* have been reported. These hybrids should be sought also in Ohio.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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. 1940. North American Cariceae. N.Y. Bot. Gard., pl. 354, 355.

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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