

***Eleocharis engelmannii* Steud.**
Engelmann's Spike-rush



Family: Cyperaceae

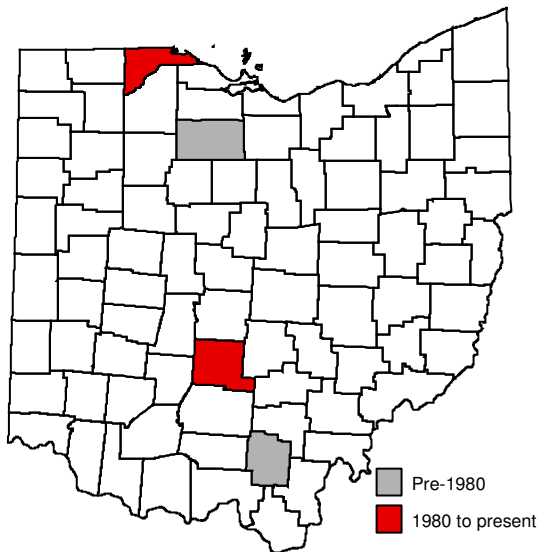
Synonyms: *Eleocharis ovata* (Roth) Roem. & Schult. var. *engelmannii* (Steud.) Britton; *Eleocharis obtusa* (Willd.) Schult. var. *engelmannii* (Steud.) Gilly

Description: Annual, culms up to 40 cm long; spikelets often lanceoloid; occasionally ovoid; achenes 1 (1.5) x 0.7 to 1.1 mm; tubercles depressed; chestnut brown (Flora of North America Committee 2002).

Flowering: late May to September

Fruiting: July to mid-October

Similar Species: *Eleocharis engelmannii* is easily confused with *E. obtusa*. It is separated from *E. obtusa* by depressed, triangular tubercle less than ¼ the height of achene and bristles about equaling the achene, or frequently reduced or lacking.



Total Range: CAN: AB, BC, MB, ON, SK. USA: AL, AR, AZ, CA, CO, CT, DC, DE, GA, ID, IL, IN, KY, LA, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, MO, MS, NC, ND, NE, NJ, NM, NY, OH, OK, OR, PA, RI, SC, SD, TN, TX, VA, WA.

Ohio Range: Jackson, Lucas, Pickaway, Seneca.

Ohio Status: www.ohiodnr.com/dnap

Habitats: Mudflats along margins of ponds and lakes.

Threats: Draining of wetlands and overshadowing by taller vegetation through succession.

Conservation Potential: *Eleocharis engelmannii* is a seed-banking species and tolerates moderate disturbances.

Inventory Guidelines: Collect mature fruiting specimens, cannot be positively identified from photos.

Comments: This species is easily confused with the very common *E. obtusa*. Intermediates between *E. engelmannii* & *E. obtusa* are occasionally found where these two species co-occur. Braun (1967) reports this species from Montgomery County based on a 1901 specimen annotated “approaching *E. engelmannii*” by Svenson in 1960.

It should be sought on open mudflats, in late summer or autumn throughout Ohio.

Selected References:

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Ohio Natural Heritage Program

ODNR - Division of Natural Areas & Preserves

2045 Morse Road, Building F-1

Columbus, Ohio 43229

www.ohiodnr.com/dnap

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