

CAREX ARCTATA Boott
Drooping Wood Sedge

FAMILY: Cyperaceae

HABIT: Densely tufted perennial from a short, upright rootstalk; fertile culms 3-9 dm.; fruiting late May-June.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Very similar to the 2 varieties of *C. debilis*, both of which occur in similar habitats. *C. arctata* can be distinguished from *C. debilis* by its broad leaves and short-stipitate, rather than sessile, perigynia. Superficially, this species resembles the common *C. gracillima* and *C. prasina*, but easily can be distinguished by the absence of green blades on the lowest leaf sheaths of *C. arctata*.

TOTAL RANGE: Newfoundland to MN, s. to PA and OH.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Geauga, Portage, and Summit counties. Pre-1980 records are from Erie and Hancock counties.

HABITAT: Dry to moist, open woods, often in rocky soil and on the tops of rock ledges.

HAZARDS: Overgrowth by woody species through succession and soil compaction.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Poor, limited habitat that is threatened by recreation.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect complete, mature specimens.

COMMENTS: This species is not conspicuous and easily may be overlooked or confused with *C. debilis*. A few new populations have been found in Summit County on Sharon conglomerate ledges. It should be sought in suitable habitats throughout northern Ohio, especially in Geauga, Portage, and Summit counties.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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Division of Natural Areas and Preserves
Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Created: 2/81 Allison W. Cusick
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