

CAREX PALLESCENS L.
Pale Sedge

FAMILY: Cyperaceae.

HABIT: Tufted perennial from a short, upright rootstalk with short, slender stolons, fertile culms 2-6 dm.; fruiting June, July.

SIMILAR SPECIES: In general appearance very similar to other members of the Section Virescentes, especially *C. caroliniana* which occurs in similar habitats. *C. pallescens*, however, is the only member of this section with the terminal spikelet entirely staminate.

TOTAL RANGE: Newfoundland to WI, s. to NJ and OH.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): There are post-1980 records from Ashtabula, Geauga, Lake, Portage, Summit, and Trumbull counties. There are pre-1980 collections from 4 counties: Cuyahoga, Erie, and Lorain counties.

HABITAT: A variety of moist, open situations, especially somewhat disturbed sites; woodland clearings, wet woods borders, meadows, shrub borders of swamps and bogs, ditches; apparently not in alluvial situations.

HAZARDS: Overgrowth by woody species through succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Good; often found in disturbed situations.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect complete, mature specimens with underground parts.

COMMENTS: This species should be sought throughout northern Ohio. Though distinctive, it is not conspicuous and likely is overlooked. It probably is more frequent than the few records indicate. Its habitat is quite widespread in northeastern Ohio.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Gleason, H.A. and Cronquist, A. 1991. Manual of vascular plants of northeastern United States and adjacent Canada. 2nd ed. The New York Botanical Garden, Bronx NY. 910 pp.

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Voss, E.G. 1972. Michigan flora, Part I, Gymnosperms and monocots. Cranbrook Inst. of Sci. Bull. 55, Bloomfield Hills, MI. 488 p.



Division of Natural Areas and Preserves
Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Created: 2/1981 Allison W. Cusick
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