



Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program

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Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

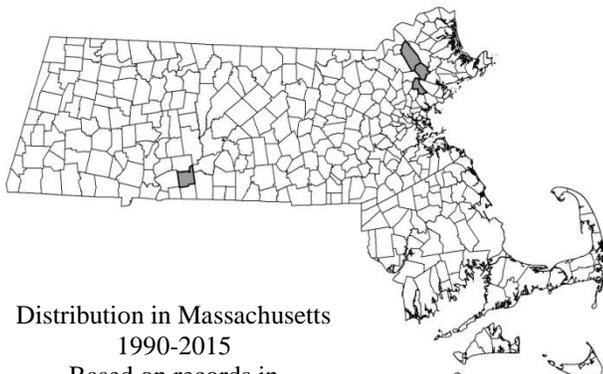
Bog Sedge *Carex exilis* Dewey

State Status: **None**
Federal Status: **None**

SPECIES DESCRIPTION: Bog Sedge is a perennial sedge that can grow up to 90cm in height, and forms a dense clump. It is distinctive in that each plant has only a single floral spike, which usually contains staminate flowers below the pistillate flowers, though occasionally single sex spikes are observed. It has narrow (1.5mm) leaf blades with in-rolled edges. It is an obligate wetland species.

DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE: In Massachusetts, Bog Sedge has primarily been found in Essex and Middlesex Counties, with one current population found in Hampden County. Of the fourteen populations, only three are current, possibly because sedges are more difficult for the casual botanist to identify.

HABITAT DESCRIPTION: This plant grows in peat in wetlands, bogs, fens, wet meadows, and shorelines of streams, rivers and ponds. Although a variety of habitats are possible, it is not common in Massachusetts. Associated species include *Sphagnum* moss, *Carex buxbaumii*, *C. atlantica*, *C. canescens*, *C. echinata*, *C. stricta*, *C. lasiocarpa*, *C. diandra*, *Dasiphora fruticosa*, *Drosera intermedia*, *Eriophorum virginicum*, *Oclemena*



Distribution in Massachusetts
1990-2015
Based on records in
Natural Heritage Database

nemoralis, *Sarracenia purpurea*, *Thelypteris palustris*, and *Trichophorum alpinum*. Scattered shrubs may also be found growing with Bog Sedge, and may include *Alnus serrulata*, *Chamaecyparis thyoides*, *Larix laricina*, *Picea mariana*, *Rhus vernix* and *Vaccinium macrocarpon*. Open wetland habitat dominated by *Typha latifolia*, *T. angustifolia*, and *T. x glauca* does not contain *C. exilis*.

THREATS: The primary threat to Bog Sedge is anthropomorphic changes in the hydrology of the wetland systems in which it is found. Climate change may also be a threat as it may bring not only increases in temperature not favorable for this species, but changes in the hydrology of the wetland areas. Invasive species, such as *Frangula alnus*, may also threaten this species through shading.

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Updated 2015

A Species of Greatest Conservation Need in the Massachusetts State Wildlife Action Plan

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

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