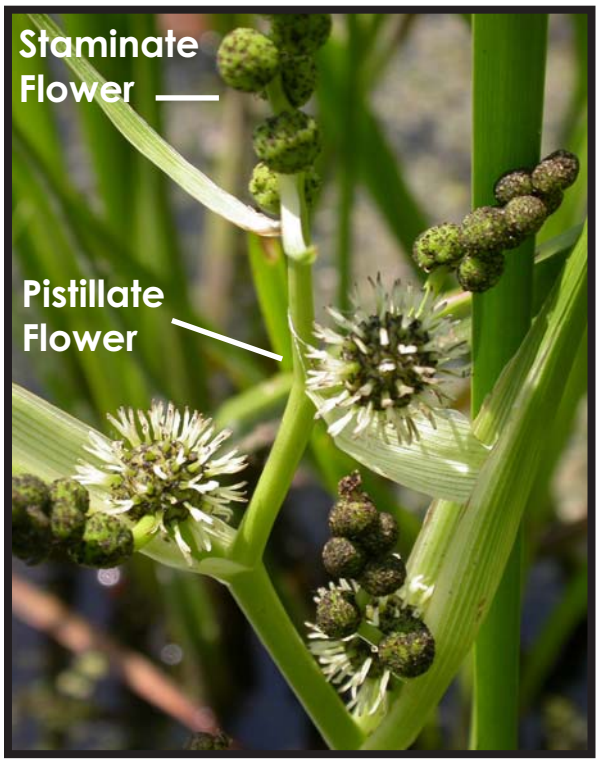
Giant bur-reed

Sparganium eurycarpum

Minnesota C-Value: 5
Wetland Indicator Status: OBL
Native



Leaves: Leaves erect, bright green, 6-12 mm wide, about 1 m tall, strong keel creating a flattened triangular cross-section of leaf.

Stems: Leaf stems stout, branched.

Flowers and fruit: Bur-like appearance for lower pistillate (female) heads that are 2-2.5 cm wide, flowers with 2 stigmas. Upper flowers are staminate (male) and smaller. Flower stalk zig-zags. Flowers May to August.

Plant communities: Marsh, sedge meadow, lake edge, streams, shorelines.

Comments: Perennial often growing with cattails or river bulrush. Prior to flowering the bright green and triangular cross-section leaf distinguishes this plant from the duller, flatter cattail leaves. 8 species of Sparganium occur in Minnesota. *S. eurycarpum* is the most common. Other species are shorter than 1 m, and flowers only have 1 stigma.