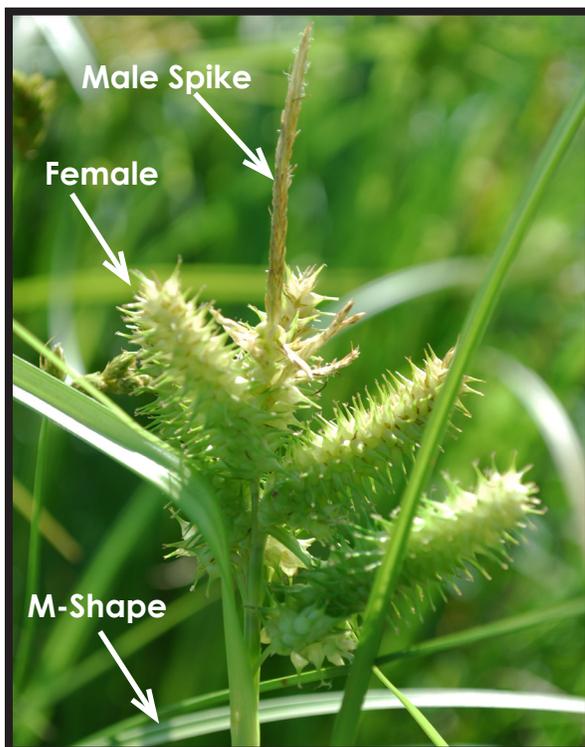


Porcupine Sedge

Carex hystericina

Minnesota C-Value: 4
Wetland Indicator Status: OBL
Native



Leaves: 3-9 mm wide M-shaped leaves. Sheaths range from white, thin and translucent in the front to green, yellow, or red on the back. Lower sheaths break into threadlike fibers.

Stems: 1-3 ft tall triangular stems generally taller than the leaves. May be upright or leaning.

Flowers and fruit: Bracts of the lowest spike longer than the inflorescence. Terminal spike is staminate (male), lower spikes pistillate (female). Pistillate spikelets are 1.5 - 4 cm long on slender stalks that often droop. Perigynia are 5 - 7 mm long with a beak having short straight teeth 0.7 mm long.

Plant communities: Found in marshes, wet meadows, and ditches.

Comments: Similar to bottlebrush sedge (*Carex comosa*). Spikelets of *C. hystericina* have a rougher appearance with coarser spikes, and the teeth on perigynia are straight (not spreading.)