

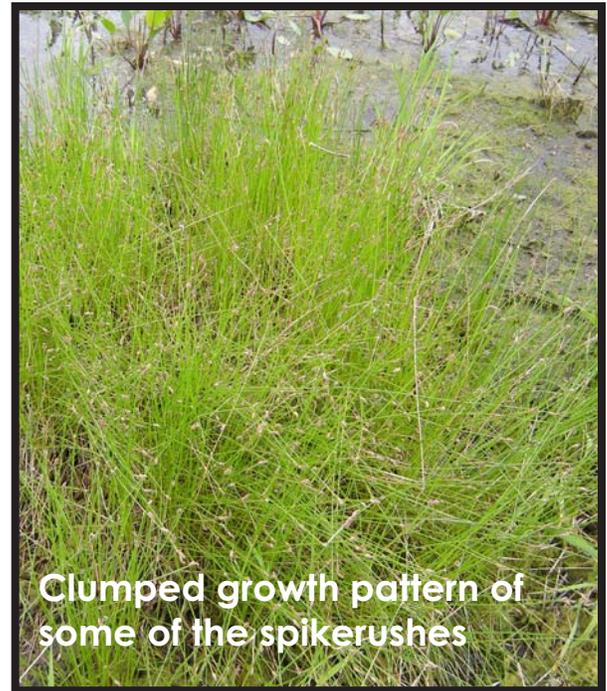
Spike rushes

Eleocharis spp.

Minnesota C-Value: 3-10

Wetland Indicator Status: FACW-OBL

Native



Leaves: Leaves are reduced to sheaths at the base of the stems.

Stems: Soft stems up to 50 cm high and 0.5-5 mm thick. Round, flattened, or angled.

Flowers and fruit: Single flower head (spikelet) at tip of stem, 4-30 mm long. Scales spirally arranged, contains many flowers. Fruit is an achene with a tubercle, best viewed with a magnifying lens.

Plant communities: Mudflats, shorelines, ditches, marshes. Commonly found in disturbed saturated soils of farmed, restored, and created wetlands.

Comments: 16 species in Minnesota. Most are perennial from rhizomes, a few are annuals. Although some species can be identified by vegetative characteristics, many require close examination of the achene to identify.