

Grasses, sedges & rushes

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***Carex exsiccata (C. vesicaria)* Western inflated sedge**

Exposure: full sun

Soil moisture: wet

Transplanting success: high

Growth rate: rapid

Form: tufts to 36 inches or sometimes spreading on short rhizomes

Found on pond and lake shores, wet meadows, and in seasonal ponds. Inflated sedge transplants well, grows vigorously, and tolerates both winter inundation and summer drying. In shallow, emergent freshwater wetlands, this species can form dense carpets that dominate the plant community. Click [here](#) for photographs of this species on the University of Washington Herbarium website.

***Carex lenticularis var. lipocarpa (kelloggii)* Shore sedge**

Exposure: full sun

Soil moisture: wet

Transplanting success: high

Growth rate: rapid

Form: dense tufts to 30 inches, no rhizomes

Found on lakeshores, stream-banks, wet meadows, and bogs. Shore sedge generally transplants and grows well, and tolerates frequent water level fluctuations, although it spreads slowly. Click [here](#) for photographs of this species on the University of Washington Herbarium website.

***Carex leptopoda* (*C. deweyana* var. *leptopoda*) Slender-foot sedge**

Exposure: partial to full shade

Soil moisture: moist

Transplanting success: high

Growth rate: rapid

Form: loose tufts to 26 inches, no rhizomes

Found in mesic to moist forests, often in or near the riparian zone. In the Puget trough, slender-foot sedge is the most common of three distinct species that were formerly grouped together as Dewey's sedge, and the more common of only two forested upland sedge species (the other is *Carex hendersonii*). Slender-foot sedge generally transplants and grows well in the shade. Click [here](#) for photographs of this species on the University of Washington Herbarium website.

***Carex lyngbyei* Lyngbye's sedge**

Exposure: full sun

Soil moisture: wet

Transplanting success: high

Growth rate: rapid

Form: spreading on deep rhizomes to form dense stands, to 50 inches

Lyngbye's sedge forms dense stands in coastal salt marshes on Puget Sound, on the outer coast of Washington and Oregon, and along the lower Columbia River. Lyngbye's sedge is important for estuary restoration because it dominates shorelines and provides critical nutrient inputs in areas where juvenile salmonids feed and shelter. Click [here](#) for photographs of this species on the University of Washington Herbarium website.

***Carex obnupta* Slough sedge**

Exposure: full sun to shade

Soil moisture: moist to wet

Transplanting success: high

Growth rate: rapid

Form: dense tufts to 60 inches on long, fleshy rhizomes

Slough sedge is the superstar of emergent revegetation. It transplants very well, grows and spreads quickly, tolerates wide seasonal water level fluctuations, and is one of the few shade-tolerant sedges. If project conditions are at all suitable, it will perform impressively. It is one of our most competitive emergents against invasive species; established swards

may resist even reed canarygrass. Slough sedge is very common and is found in wet woods, ditches, meadows, lakeshores, streambanks, and marshes. Click [here](#) for photographs of this species on the University of Washington Herbarium website.

***Carex stipata* Sawbeak sedge**

Exposure: full sun

Soil moisture: wet

Transplanting success: high

Growth rate: rapid

Form: dense tufted clumps to 40 inches, no rhizomes

This widespread species frequents wet meadows, ditches, and streamsides. It likes disturbed ground, which means it *prefers* the conditions of most restoration and mitigation sites. It grows vigorously, but does not spread by rhizomes. Sometimes tolerant of part shade. Click [here](#) for photographs of this species on the University of Washington Herbarium website.

***Carex utriculata (rostrata)* Beaked sedge**

Exposure: full sun

Soil moisture: wet to shallow water

Transplanting success: high

Growth rate: rapid

Form: large, thick stems to 45 inches, arising from long rhizomes and stolons

Beaked sedge is a common species found in soils wet year-round, such as the edges of ponds and lakes. It is sometimes tolerant of shade. Click [here](#) for photographs of this species on the University of Washington Herbarium website.

***Deschampsia cespitosa* Tufted hairgrass**

Exposure: full sun

Soil moisture: moist to wet, can be well-drained

Transplanting success: high

Growth rate: rapid

Form: dense tufts to 5 feet, hummock forming

Tufted hairgrass is found in profusion on tidal marshes and also occurs on river bars and lakeshores. It is considered a keystone species for wet meadows. It transplants and grows well. Tolerates occasional drying and salt water and will not accept year-round flooding. Click [here](#) for photographs of this species on the University of Washington Herbarium website.

***Eleocharis palustris* Common spikerush**

Exposure: full sun

Soil moisture: wet to shallow water

Transplanting success: medium

Growth rate: unknown

Form: small clusters to 40 inches along rhizomes

Common spikerush is found in wet meadows, tidal marshes, and shorelines. It can spend much of the year in shallow water, but needs to dry out for at least a few months during the growing season. Tolerates some salt water. Click [here](#) for photographs of this species on the University of Washington Herbarium website.

***Elymus mollis (Leymus mollis)* American dunegrass**

Exposure: full sun

Soil moisture: moist

Transplanting success: high

Growth rate: rapid

Form: stout stems to 5 feet, from scaly rhizomes

American dunegrass is the most common grass in the nearshore and backshore environments of Puget Sound, and is widespread along the outer coast of Washington and Oregon. It occurs in broad, extensive stands on dunes and gravelly beaches, frequently comprising the dominant vegetation between beaches and inland areas. This species forms the cornerstone for many beach revegetation plantings, and is essential for controlling beach erosion. Click [here](#) for photographs of this species on the University of Washington Herbarium website.

***Glyceria elata* Tall mannagrass**

Exposure: full sun to partial shade

Soil moisture: moist to wet

Transplanting success: high

Growth rate: rapid

Form: somewhat tufted perennial, almost succulent, to 4.5 feet, with creeping rhizomes

Tall mannagrass prefers open habitat and is typically found on streamsides, wet meadows, and lakeshores. It transplants well, and grows quickly. Click [here](#) for photographs of this species on the University of Washington Herbarium website.

***Glyceria grandis* Reed mannagrass**

Exposure: full sun to partial shade

Soil moisture: moist to wet

Transplanting success: high

Growth rate: rapid

Form: tall, single stems to 6 feet arising from creeping rhizomes

One of our frequent customers calls this species a “workhorse” because it transplants and grows so well: it tolerates wide seasonal water fluctuations and is robust enough to be somewhat competitive with invasive species. We are encouraged by this endorsement to recommend it to others. It can take drier, shadier habitats than tall mannagrass. Click [here](#) for photographs of this species on the University of Washington Herbarium website.

***Juncus acuminatus* Tapered rush**

Exposure: full sun

Soil moisture: wet to shallow water

Transplanting success: high

Growth rate: medium to rapid

Form: mostly tufted to 30 inches, sometimes with short rhizomes and in dense mats

Tapered rush prefers to be wet throughout the year, frequenting the shallow water of lakeshores, ditches, meadows, and marshes. This species matures quickly and produces prolific seeds that may aid in your revegetation efforts. Click [here](#) for photographs of this species on the University of Washington Herbarium website.

***Juncus balticus* (*J. arcticus* var. *balticus*) Baltic rush**

Exposure: full sun

Soil moisture: wet

Transplanting success: high

Growth rate: medium to rapid

Form: loose carpets from rhizomes, to 27”

Baltic rush forms uniform carpets or sometimes grows intermixed with tufted hairgrass, above estuarine mudflats. Click [here](#) for photographs of this species on the University of Washington Herbarium website.

***Juncus effusus* Soft rush**

Exposure: full sun

Soil moisture: moist to wet

Transplanting success: high

Growth rate: rapid

Form: scattered tufts growing on thick rhizomes, to 39”

Soft rush is the most common rush in the Pacific Northwest. It is widespread in wet pastures and disturbed areas, and occurs less commonly in salt marshes and tideflats, where it may grow intermixed with tufted hairgrass and saltgrass. Soft rush has a

reputation for invasiveness, but in our experience it rarely forms monocultures, and can provide fairly rapid cover on marginal emergent sites with disturbed, compacted soils. Click [here](#) for photographs of this species on the University of Washington Herbarium website.

***Juncus ensifolius* Dagger-leaf rush**

Exposure: full sun

Soil moisture: moist to wet

Transplanting success: high

Growth rate: medium

Form: stems to 24 inches arising from fat rhizomes, often growing in a line

This small rush grows in moist sites but usually not in standing water. Common in wet meadows and tolerates somewhat compacted soil. We have seen this species spread rapidly along moist, disturbed shorelines. Click [here](#) for photographs of this species on the University of Washington Herbarium website.

***Juncus tenuis* Slender rush**

Exposure: full sun

Soil moisture: moist to wet

Transplanting success: high

Growth rate: unknown

Form: tufted and slender to 26 inches, fibrous roots

Slender rush is most frequent in disturbed sites such as pastures, roadsides, and clearings. It is tolerant of compacted soils, some shade, and some drought, which means it will survive the conditions of many mitigation sites! Click [here](#) for photographs of this species on the University of Washington Herbarium website.

***Schoenoplectus acutus* var. *acutus* (*Scirpus lacustris* ssp. *acutus*) Hardstem bulrush**

Exposure: full sun

Soil moisture: wet to shallow water

Transplanting success: medium

Growth rate: rapid

Form: stout, tall stems to 10 feet, from rhizomes

Hardstem bulrush can form large colonies in standing water at lakeshores and marshes. It grows in deeper water than any other emergents we grow—plant it at a depth of 2-8" at lowest water. Generally a fresh water species, but can tolerate some salt water. Provides food, cover, and/or nesting sites for many species of birds and mammals. Click [here](#) for photographs of this species on the University of Washington Herbarium website.

***Schoenoplectus maritimus* (*Scirpus maritimus*, *Boboschoenus maritimus*)**

Seacoast bulrush

Exposure: full sun

Soil moisture: wet

Transplanting success: unknown

Growth rate: unknown

Form: stout, erect stems to 5 feet, from rhizomes

Seacoast bulrush occurs primarily in high salt marshes, sometimes in association with Lyngbye's sedge. Provides food for migrating and wintering waterfowl, especially snow geese. Click [here](#) for photographs of this species on the University of Washington Herbarium website.

***Schoenoplectus pungens* (*Scirpus americanus*, *S. pungens*) Common threesquare**

Exposure: full sun

Soil moisture: wet

Transplanting success: high

Growth rate: rapid

Form: thin, erect stems to 3 feet, from thick rhizomes

Common threesquare occurs in estuarine salt marshes, and in freshwater wetlands with year-round saturation. In our experience, this species will not do well in sites that dry up for more than a few days. Click [here](#) for photographs of this species on the University of Washington Herbarium website.

***Scirpus cyperinus* Brown woolly sedge**

Exposure: full sun

Soil moisture: wet to shallow water

Transplanting success: medium

Growth rate: medium

Form: tufted stems to 5 feet, nonrhizomatous

Tolerates up to about 12 inches of water during the growing season and soil should be saturated year round. Bristles on the seed heads give this species its "woolly" appearance. We observed this species thriving in a constructed wastewater treatment wetland. Click [here](#) for photographs of this species on the University of Washington Herbarium website.

***Scirpus microcarpus* Small-fruited bulrush**

Exposure: full sun

Soil moisture: wet to shallow water

Transplanting success: high

Growth rate: rapid

Form: single, large stems to 5 feet, arising from rhizomes

Small-fruited bulrush is a vigorous grower in sloughs, streambanks, and disturbed sites such as ditches and wet clearings. This species likes to be wet year-round, although the soil may be dry at the surface during drought. It may tolerate some shade, but will grow less vigorously. Provides valuable food and nesting material for wildlife. Click [here](#) for photographs of this species on the University of Washington Herbarium website.