

Short Hair Sedge

Carex crinita var. *brevicrinis*

Description

Short hair sedge is tufted grass-like plant that grows 2¼ to 5 feet (7-15 dm) tall, with 3-sided stems, particularly near the base. The leaves are linear, elongate, and up to ½ inch (13 mm) wide. The flowers are arranged in drooping cylindrical spikes near the top of flowering stems. The female spikes are up to 4 inches (10 cm) long and contain many sac-like structures (perigynia) that are each subtended by a scale with a long bristle-tip. This variety has larger perigynia and a lower perigynium/perigynium scale ratio than variety *crinita*.

Distribution & Habitat

Short hair sedge has a distribution from southern New England south into Georgia and west into Nebraska and Texas. In Pennsylvania, the occurrences have been found mostly in the southern counties. This species is a wetland plant and grows in moist to wet woodlands.

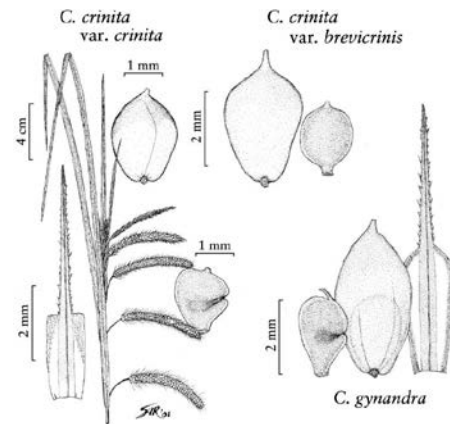
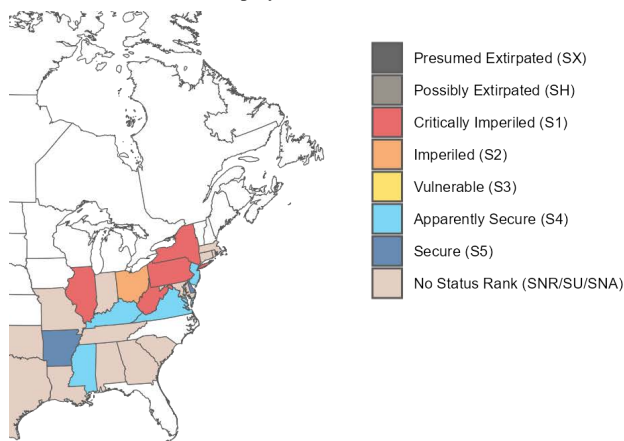


Photo source: Flora of North America

North American State/Province Conservation Status

Map by NatureServe 2025



Current State Status

The PA Biological Survey (PABS) considers short hair sedge to be a species of special concern, based on the very few occurrences that have been recently confirmed and its wetland habitat. It has a PA legal rarity status and a PABS suggested rarity status of Endangered.

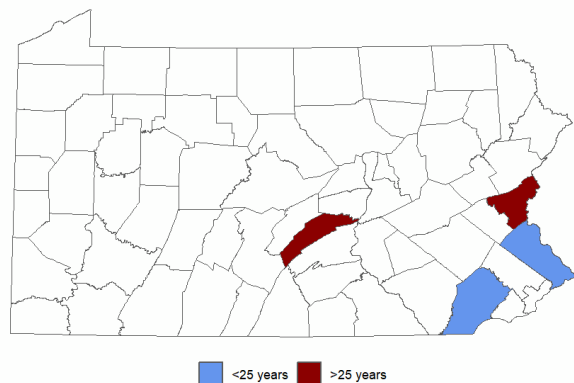
Conservation Considerations

Creating buffers around wetlands, controlling of invasive species, and protecting the hydrology will help to maintain occurrences of short hair sedge. More field surveys are needed to learn more about the range, abundance, and ecological requirements of the species.

NatureServe conservation status ranks

G5T5 – Globally secure; S1– Critically imperiled in Pennsylvania

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References

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- NatureServe. 2025. NatureServe Explorer [web application] NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available at <https://explorer.natureserve.org> (Accessed: May 8, 2025)
- Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program. 2025.
- Rhoads, A.F. and W.M. Klein, Jr. 1993. The Vascular Flora of Pennsylvania: Annotated Checklist and Atlas. American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia.
- Rhoads, A.F. and T.A. Block. 2000. The Plants of Pennsylvania: An Illustrated Manual. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia.