

Eleocharis obtusa



blunt spikerush

Family	Cyperaceae		
Origin	Native		
WIS Code	OBL	CoC	2

DESCRIPTION

Densely clumping plants that lack rhizomes (underground stems). Stems are bright green, smooth and generally erect and in various lengths to 80 cm. Leaves appear absent, but actually lack blades and are reduced to sheaths at the stem base. The brown sheaths often have a single tooth along the upper rim.



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FLOWERS AND FRUITS

July through September. Each stem bears a small, egg-shaped, blunt-tip spikehead (4-10 mm long; 3-5 mm wide) covered by overlapping whitish green to brown oval scales. Hidden by these scales is one tiny flower each. Fruits are capsules (achenes) with a single seed and they are widest near the tip with a swollen cap-like appendage (tubercle) as wide as the top of the achene. Surrounding the achene are five to seven barbed bristles.

HABITAT

Depression wetlands and mucky pond edges, swamps, marshes, beaver meadows, low exposed muddy stream banks.

SIMILAR SPECIES

Eleocharis palustris, common spikerush, has a longer narrow spikehead (5 to 30 mm long; 2 to 7 mm wide), the lowest scale on its spikehead is leathery, wrapping 75 percent of the stem. Its achene is turret-like with a narrow neck and usually four bristles. See the plant page for *Eleocharis tenuis*, slender spikerush, for a comparison with *E. obtusa*.



Eleocharis obtusa

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Eleocharis palustris

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