

# Carex echinata



## star sedge

Family	Cyperaceae		
Origin	Native		
WIS Code	OBL	CoC	8

### DESCRIPTION

This small slender sedge gets its common name from the spiny look of the flower spikes. The “spines” are actually the long beaks of the female flower-cases (perigynia). Stems are 10 to 90 cm tall, and the leaves (only 1 to 2.5 mm wide) are smooth and dark green. The leaves are generally shorter than or equaling the length of the fruiting stems.

### FLOWERS AND FRUITS

May to June. Flower spikes are short (1 to 7.5 cm), and can be widely separated or in groups along the stem. Female flower-cases (perigynia) are ovoid with a distinctive thickened spongy base, and the lower ones are much longer than wide.

### HABITAT

Bogs, seeps, seepage swamps, depression swamps and ponds at middle to higher elevations.

### SIMILAR SPECIES

A very similar species, *Carex atlantica*, Atlantic sedge, has distinct perigynia with a wide fat base in comparison to the more slender base of *C. echinata* perigynia.



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*Carex echinata*, fruit



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*Carex atlantica*, fruit