

-State Species Abstract-  
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

*CAREX ALOPECOIDEA*  
FOXTAIL SEDGE  
Family: Cyperaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.

Agency Status:USFS Region 2 Sensitive.

Heritage Rank:

Global: G5 State: S1

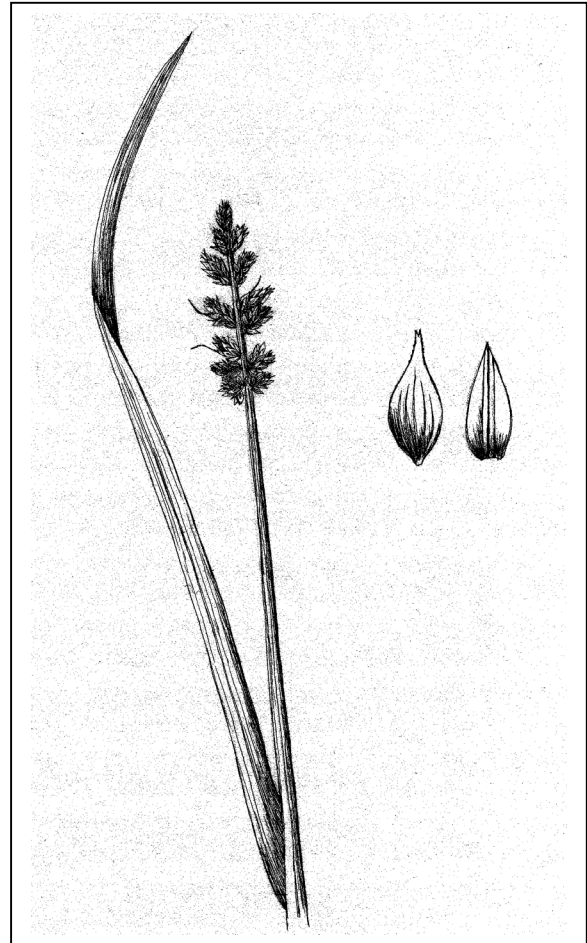
WYNDD Plant List: Disjunct

Description: Foxtail sedge is a tufted perennial with stout culms 40-80 cm tall. Leaf blades are 3-6 mm wide and often exceed the culm. The inflorescence is 2-3 cm long and spike-like, with the staminate flowers located above the pistillate ones. Flowering scales are oval-triangular with awns up to 2 mm long. The brownish-yellow perigynia are oval with a tapering beak and are flattened on one side. The achenes are lens-shaped and the pistillate flowers have 2 stigmas (Fertig 1993; Fertig et al. 1994; Great Plains Flora Association 1986; Gleason and Cronquist 1991).

Similar Species: *Carex vulpinoidea* has a longer inflorescence (3-10 cm) and longer awns on the flowering scales. *C. hoodii* has awnless scales and a denser, head-like inflorescence. *C. gravida* has whitish sheaths with green mottling and perigynia that taper abruptly to a beak.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: Flowers from July-August.

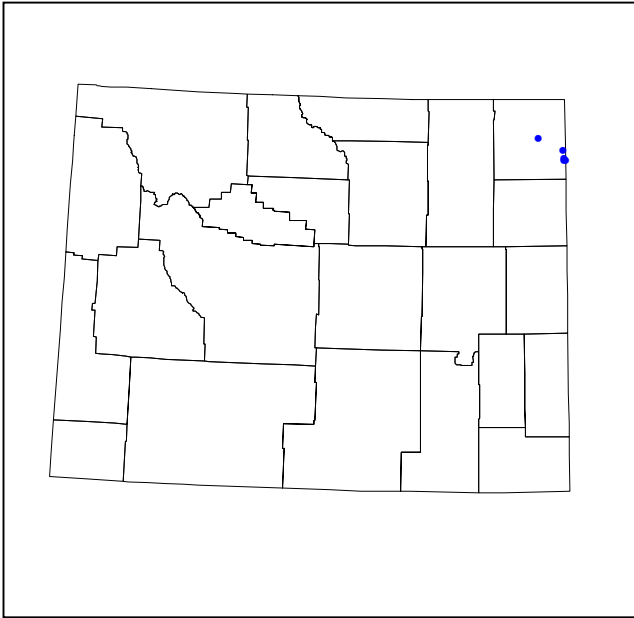
Distribution: Rangelwide, this species occurs from Quebec to North Dakota and south to New Jersey, Illinois, and Iowa, with disjunct populations in the Black Hills of Crook County, Wyoming.



Above: *Carex alopecoidea* (source unknown).

Habitat: Rangelwide, this species is found in wet meadows and willow-sedge communities along streams. In Wyoming, populations are usually found along wet, shady creek bottoms and springs in Paper birch (*Betula papyrifera*)-hazelnut (*Corylus cornuta*) communities or along pond margins. Populations are typically small and localized in Wyoming.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 4-5 extant occurrences in Wyoming, all observed since 1984 (most recently in 2000). This figure includes 1-2 new occurrences discovered during a revision of *Carex* specimens at the Rocky Mountain Herbarium by Fertig and Dorn in 1999.



Wyoming distribution of *Carex alopecoidea*.

**Abundance:** State population numbers in the low hundreds and is restricted to 3-8 acres of known habitat.

**Trends:** Probably declining due to disturbance of moist meadow habitats.

**Protection status:** Two small occurrences are found in the Upper Sand Creek and Dugout Gulch Special Botanical Areas on Black Hills National Forest. Other populations are on public lands managed for multiple use. *Carex alopecoidea* is listed as Sensitive by USFS Region 2.

**Threats:** May be impacted by heavy recreation or grazing in streamside habitats.

**Managed Areas:** Occurs on Black Hills National Forest.

**References:**

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Updated: 01-03-30