

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

CAREX RICHARDSONII
RICHARDSON SEDGE
Family: Cyperaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.
Agency Status: None.

Heritage Rank:

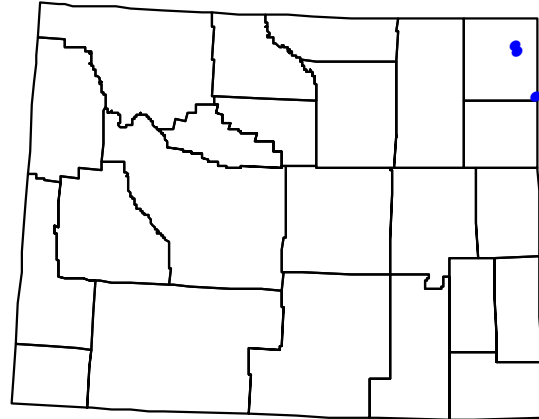
Global: G4 State: S1
WYNDD Plant List: Disjunct
(Medium Conservation Priority)

Description: Richardson sedge is a loosely tufted perennial with triangular stems 15-35 cm tall. Leaves are mostly basal and 1.5-2.5 mm wide. Bracts of the inflorescence are reduced to bladeless sheaths 10-20 mm long and have reddish, hyaline margins. The terminal spike is staminate and 8-22 mm long. Lateral spikes are short-stalked, pistillate, and 10-25 mm long. Pistillate scales are acute-tipped and equal or longer than the perigynia. Perigynia are obovate, light green to brownish, pubescent, and 2.5-3.5 mm long. Achenes are trigonous and flowers have 3 styles (Dorn 1992; Gleason and Cronquist 1991; Great Plains Flora Association 1986).

Similar Species: *Carex concinna* has staminate spikes 3-6 mm long, pistillate spikes 4-8 mm long, and pistillate scales shorter than the perigynia. *C. eburnea* has leaves less than 0.5 mm wide and glabrous perigynia. *C. pennsylvanica* and *C. rossii* have long-beaked perigynia.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: May-June.

Distribution: Occurs from Ontario to Alberta, south to New York, Ohio, and



Above: Wyoming distribution of *Carex richardsonii*.

Iowa, with disjunct populations in South Dakota and Wyoming. In Wyoming, known only from the Black Hills in Crook County.

Habitat: Rangewide, this species occurs in low prairies, ditches, and hillsides (Great Plains Flora Association). Wyoming populations are found in open Ponderosa pine/Bur oak forests on slopes and ridges or on north slopes in Paper birch woodlands at elevations of 4600-6300 feet.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 3 occurrences in Wyoming, 2 of which have been observed since 1983.

Abundance: Not known, although reported as "locally common" at one site by C.L. Porter in 1963.

Trends: Not known.

Protection status: All known occurrences are on public lands managed for multiple use.

Threats: Not known.

Managed Areas: Occurs on lands managed by Black Hills National Forest.

References:

Dorn, R.D. 1992. Vascular Plants of Wyoming, second edition. Mountain West Publishing, Cheyenne, WY.

Gleason, H.A. and A. Cronquist. 1991. Manual of Vascular Plants of Northeastern United States and Canada. New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, NY.

Great Plains Flora Association. 1986. Flora of the Great Plains. Univ. Kansas Press, Lawrence, KS.

Holmgren, N. 1998. Illustrated Companion to Gleason and Cronquist's Manual - Illustrations of the Vascular Plants of Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada. New York Botanical Garden, Bronx NY.

Larson, G.E. and J.R. Johnson. 1999. Plants of the Black Hills and Bear Lodge Mountains. South Dakota State University College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences & South Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station, Brookings, SD.

Porter, C.L. 1965. A Flora of Wyoming: Part IV. Bulletin 434:1-88. Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Wyoming.

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Updated: 00-11-25