

Swordleaf rush

Juncus ensifolius

Description

Introduced to North America as an ornamental.

Habit

Perennial herb from strong, long rhizomes; stems erect, 30-60 cm tall.

Leaves

Alternate, strongly flattened, compressed laterally (iris-like); partial cross-walls that run from the edges to about 2/3 of the leaf widths; sheaths open, with or without short, ear-shaped lobes.

Stems

Erect; 30-60 cm tall; round or flat.

Flowers

Inflorescence terminal, exceeding the involucre bract, heads 2- many, 5-15 mm wide, 5- to many-flowered, perianth 3-3.5 mm. long, pale greenish-brown to deep brownish-purple, the 6 segments lanceolate-acuminate, subequal; 3 or 6 stamens; style 0.5 mm. long.





Fruits and Seeds

Seed pod, narrowly cylindrical, rounded, blunt, about as long as the perianth segments, egg-shaped, about 0.5 mm long, lacking tail-like appendages.

Habitat

Grows in wet, open, sandy soil in marshes, peat bogs, lakeshores and margins of creeks and rivers, from the lowland and steppe to subalpine zone.

Reproduction

By seed or rhizomes.

Similar

Gulf coast Spikerush (*Eleocharis cellulosa*); Boreal alopecurus (*Alopecurus alpinus*); Smallflowered woodrush (*Luzula parviflora*).

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Cutting before flowering, grazing, rotary cultivations, ploughing, and drainage of area.

Credits

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