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# Mead's Sedge

*Carex meadii*



# Scientific Names

- ❖ Family: Cyperaceae
- ❖ Genus: Carex – the Latin word for Sedge, which comes from the Greek word “kairo”, which means “to cut”. This refers to the fact that many sedges have long, thin leaves which sometimes have sharp edges.
- ❖ Species: meadii – This name honors botanist/doctor Dr. Samuel Mead who collected in the mid-1800’s.





# Characteristics

Perennial

- ❖ Grass-like
- ❖ Bloom time – March, April, May, June. Blooms last about 1-2 weeks.
- ❖ Has rhizomes and fibrous roots which is one way the plant spreads





# Plant Requirements



- ❖ Light: Full Sun, Part Sun.
- ❖ Moisture: Moist to Dry conditions
- ❖ Soil: Loam, Clay Loam, Rocky alkaline soil.
- ❖ Where found: Moist to dry meadows, woodland openings



# Flowers

- ❖ Bloom Color: Yellow, Green, Purple, Brown
- ❖ The lower spike on the stem has female flowers.
- ❖ The uppermost spike on the stem has only male flowers. Much of the time you can see the pollen.



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# Seeds



- ❖ Female flowers are inside the perigynium. Three stigmas stick out. They start white, then turn brown – see photo.
- ❖ After fertilization, the achene is inside. Achene – a dry, one-seeded fruit that does not open to release the seed.



# Leaves

**Pale, Gray Blue/Green**

**Very noticeable in spring.**





# Wildlife Benefits

- ❖ It is not easy to find information specific to Mead's Sedge.
- ❖ For Sedges in general, they are used by aphids, leafhoppers, weevils, leaf mining moths, other moth caterpillars, and butterfly caterpillars.
- ❖ Grasshoppers eat the foliage, as well.
- ❖ Seeds eaten by gamebirds and songbirds.
- ❖ This carex is slight but can still provide cover and habitat for some insects and other wildlife.





# Thanks and Credits



- ❖ [https://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/grasses/plants/mead\\_sedge.htm](https://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/grasses/plants/mead_sedge.htm)
- ❖ Wikipedia
- ❖ Inaturalist.org
- ❖ [https://www.wildflower.org/gallery/species.php?id\\_plant=CAME2](https://www.wildflower.org/gallery/species.php?id_plant=CAME2)
- ❖ Southeasternflora.com