

Carex idahoae

Cyperaceae

Idaho sedge

Dick Brainerd



best survey times
J | F | M | A | M | J | J | A | S | O | N | D



plants short (25-35 cm tall)

Inflorescence with
three spikes, upper-
most largest.

Perigynia with short
beak, half the length
of scales



Illustration by Charles Feddema.
From Manual of the Carex of the Rocky
Mountains and Colorado Basin.
Courtesy of Montana Natural Heritage
Program.

Stems 20-35 cm in clumps from short rhizomes. **Leaf** blades flat, 3-20 cm long and 2-4 mm wide, crowded at the base, old leaves conspicuous. **Inflorescence** clustered in usually 3 spikes, often all pistillate, uppermost larger than others, male flowers absent or scattered, the spikes form a narrow, interrupted head with small sheathless bracts at the top of the stems; scales are at least twice as long as the perigynia, brown with translucent margins and lighter center; perigynia numerous, yellow-green and glabrous, with a short beak. **Fruit** is a triangular achene with concave sides.

Lookalikes
Carex parryana

differs from featured plant by
its smaller terminal spike and scales that are equal
to the perigynia and have a distinct green central
stripe.

Carex idahoae L.H. Bailey

Idaho sedge

PLANTS symbol: CAPA13

August 2019 status Federal: SOC; ORBIC: List 1



Distribution: Deschutes and Grant Counties, Oregon; also found in Montana and Idaho.

Habitat: Mountain meadows and moist riparian meadows.

Elevation: 1400—1700 m

Best survey time (flowering/fruiting): June to September

Associated species:

- Juncus balticus* (Baltic rush)
- Carex nebrascensis* (Nebraska sedge)
- Carex microptera* (Small winged sedge)
- Agrostis pallens* (Dune bentgrass)
- Juncus longistylis* (Long styled rush)
- Eleocharis quinqueflora* (Few flowered spike rush)
- Agoseris glauca* (Pale agoseris)
- Potentilla gracilis* (Slender cinquefoil)
- Phleum pratense* (Cultivated timothy)

