



*Carex crawfordii*. (A) Inflorescence, (B) pistillate scales, (C) perigynia, (D) achenes. B through D: Left and center—dorsal views; right—ventral view.

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*Carex crawfordii* Fern.  
Crawford sedge

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**HABIT:** Densely tufted without creeping rhizomes. **Culms:** Stiff, 1-8 dm tall, exceeding the leaves, distinctly **aphyllopodic**.

**LEAVES:** 3-4, borne on the lower one-third of the culm. **Blades:** Flat or channeled, firm, 1-4 mm wide. **Sheaths:** Thin, hyaline ventrally, concave at the mouth.

**BRACTS:** Sheathless; lowest setaceous-prolonged, shorter to about equaling the inflorescence; upper short and inconspicuous.

**SPIKES:** 3-15, **gynaecandrous**, sessile, pale green to stramineous or tan, 5-10 mm long, closely aggregated into an oblong or linear-oblong inflorescence 1.2-3 cm long and 0.8-1.5 cm wide; perigynia erect-ascending.

**PISTILLATE SCALES:** Ovate to ovate-lanceolate, equaling to shorter and distally narrower than the perigynia, tan or light brown, mostly hyaline-scarious, firmer, and sometimes greenish along the midrib.

**PERIGYNIA:** Lanceolate-subulate, flat or plano-convex, thin, narrowly **winged**, serrulate above the middle, brown or pale green to stramineous, 3-4 mm long, 0.9-1.2 mm wide. **Nerves:** Several, faint on both faces or nearly absent ventrally. **Beaks:** Flat, narrow, tapered, serrulate, obliquely cleft, bidentate.

**ACHENES:** Oblong, lenticular, 0.8-1.5 mm long, 0.5-0.8 mm wide. **Stigmas:** 2, styles usually persistent.

**HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION:** Infrequent, but occasionally locally abundant. Moist or wet places at **low to moderate elevations**. Alaska to Newfoundland, south to central Washington and Idaho, and east to Michigan and New Jersey. **June-August**.

**SIMILAR SPECIES:** See appendix, table 1.