



A

0 5mm



B

C

D

0 1mm

*Carex oederi*. (A) Inflorescences, (B) pistillate scales, (C) perigynia, (D) achenes. B through D: Left—dorsal view; right—ventral view.

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***Carex oederi* Retz.**  
**Green sedge**

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**SYNONYMS:** *C. oederi* Retz. var. *viridula* Kükenth; *C. viridula* (Michx.) Kükenth.

**PLANT HABIT:** Cespitose. **Culms:** Smooth and not prominently angled, 0.6-4 dm tall, shorter to longer than the leaves, **phyllopodic**.

**LEAVES:** 4-8, basal and cauline or all basal. **Blades:** Elongate, sometimes flat, tending to be channeled, narrow, bright green or yellowish green, 1-3 mm wide. **Sheaths:** Thin, hyaline, truncate to shallowly concave at the mouth.

**BRACTS:** Conspicuous, leaflike, elongate, surpassing the inflorescence; bracts subtending spikes in the terminal cluster sheathless, those subtending remote spikes with well-developed sheaths and long blades.

**SPIKES:** 3-6, sessile or short-pedunculate, green, becoming stramineous, heads varying from aggregated to remote. **Terminal: Staminate**, linear, 3-21 mm long. **Lateral: Pistillate**, stout, 5-14 mm long, 4-7 mm wide, compound, the lower spikes sometimes remote; perigynia 15-30, crowded, spreading.

**PISTILLATE SCALES:** Obovate with a short-cuspidate or obtuse tip, shorter and narrower than the perigynia, medium brown to stramineous except for the firm, light or green midrib and narrow, more or less white-hyaline margins, or sometimes wholly pale and hyaline-scarious except for the midrib.

**PERIGYNIA:** Obovoid, distended by the achene but distally empty and slightly inflated, pale or bright green to stramineous or yellow, 2-3.5 mm long, 0.9-1.5 mm wide. **Nerves:** Several to many on each surface, prominent and riblike; marginal nerves present. **Beaks:** Narrowly conic, abruptly contracted, slightly bent, very shortly bidentate, 0.6-1.2 mm long.

**ACHENES:** Tapered at the base, truncate at the apex, trigonous, golden brown to dark brown, 1-1.8 mm long, 0.8-1.1 mm wide, jointed to the style. **Stigmas:** 3.

**HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION:** Infrequent. On sphagnum or sandy or saline soils on wet, low ground. **Sea level to moderate elevations.** Circumboreal. In North America extending south to northern California, southern Nevada, Idaho, Utah, New Mexico, Indiana, and New Jersey. **June-August.**

**SIMILAR SPECIES:** See *C. flava*.