

Long's Bulrush

Scirpus longii

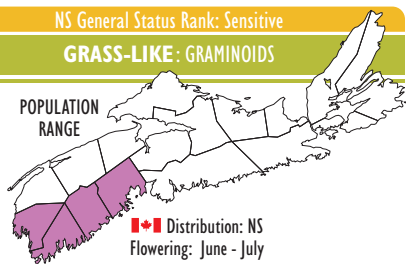
NS General Status Rank: Sensitive


GRASS-LIKE : GRAMINOIDS



Circular colony

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POPULATION
RANGE

 Distribution: NS
 Flowering: June - July

STATUSSpecial Concern Vulnerable **SIZE:** Up to 80 cm tall leaves.

LEAVES: The leaves are tough, narrow, elongate, 40-80 cm long and 5-9 mm wide. They have rough margins and are keeled or v-shaped. The top of the leaves usually arch backwards towards the ground. They can form large circular (or half circular) colonies.

STEM: The leaves emerge from a thick, long, horizontal, underground stem (rhizome).

FLOWERS: An open branched cluster of flowers (inflorescence) at the top of a tall, erect stem (up to 2 m tall) with 4-7 leaves. The cluster is composed of long and often drooping branches with oval, blackish spikelets (3-10 mm long) at their tips. The base of the specialized leaves just below the flower cluster (involucral bracts) is black and sticky. Flowering is very uncommon.

FRUITS: Dry, one-seeded fruits (achenes), 1 mm long, that are reddish-brown when mature and have 5 bristles emerging from the base.

NOTES: This species spreads almost exclusively by its long and stout horizontal stems (rhizomes) and typically forms circular or semicircular colonies which can be hollow (donut-shaped) or filled-in.



Base of plant

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V-shaped leaves

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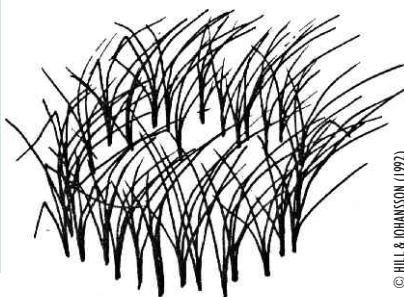
Long's Bulrush along lakeshore

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Flower cluster

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Habitat:

Wet, peaty, open bogs or fens, peaty lakeshores and shoreline wetlands.

Interesting point: This globally rare species is found from New Jersey to NS and is imperilled everywhere it occurs. Its circular colonies can be 5-10 m wide and 150-400 years old!

Similar species: A total of 5 other bulrush species in the genus *Scirpus* occur in NS. Though they can be quite similar in appearance, no other grows in circular colonies. Northwest Territory Sedge (*Carex utriculata*) has similar looking keeled leaves and grows in similar habitats, but has very different flowers (2-10 cm long spikes) and does not form circular colonies.