

## 2023 February *Guess that Plant*



*Carex intumescens* Rudge; Bladder Sedge

February's *Guess that Plant* is bladder sedge, a species distinguished by its inflated perigynia and cespitose habit. The sedge is a native perennial, herbaceous plant found in wetland habitats (US FWS OBL). It is found on wet edge, meadows, and open woodland habitats throughout the State. Stone (1910, page 291) states its was found State-wide, with the exception of the Pine Barrens where it was confined to Atlantic white cedar swamps.

Bladder sedge is a member of the Cyperaceae or sedge family, and assigned to the Lupinae section of the genus along with other New Jersey sedges such as *Carex grayii*, *C. louisianica*, *C. lupulina*, and *C. lupuliniformis*.

Moerman (1998) describes Native American uses of members of the genus for a variety of food and medicinal uses. There are no specific uses attributed to bladder sedge. Our *Guess that Plant* is a sets fruit in mid-summer, with achenes maturing soon after. This species is only visible in the winter as basal rosettes.

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