



Carex nebrascensis. (A) Pistillate scales, (B) perigynia, (C) achenes, (D) inflorescences. A through C: Left and center—dorsal views; right—ventral view.

Carex nebrascensis Dewey
Nebraska sedge

HABIT: Culms arising singly from long, stout, scaly rhizomes, sometimes forming dense stands. **Culms:** Coarse, sharply triangular, brown to reddish-tinged at the base, 2-12 dm tall, shorter to longer than the leaves, **phyllopodic**, dried leaves of the previous year present.

LEAVES: 8-15, loosely clustered, borne on the lower one-fourth of the culm, light green to more commonly glaucous and bluish green. **Blades:** Thick, firm, flat or channeled toward the base, septate-nodulose, 3-12 mm wide. **Sheath:** Membranous to hyaline ventrally, concave at the mouth.

BRACTS: Leaflike, not sheathing, dark-auricled; the lowest usually exceeding the inflorescence.

SPIKES: 3-6, slender, elongate, bicolored green and reddish purple when immature, rather remote. **Terminal:** 1 or 2, **staminate**, broadly linear, 1.5-4 cm long, 3-6 mm wide, the lower **staminate** spike often smaller than the upper. **Lateral:** 3-5, **pistillate**, erect, the upper ones may be **androgynous**, oblong to cylindrical, sessile or the lower ones pedunculate, 1.5-7 cm long, 5-9 mm wide, approximate or sometimes remote, very closely 30- to 150-flowered; perigynia ascending to spreading.

PISTILLATE SCALES: Lanceolate with an acuminate or occasionally obtuse tip, narrower than and shorter than to longer than the perigynia, reddish or brownish black, often with hyaline margins; the excurrent greenish midrib often extending to a serrulate awn.

PERIGYNIA: Oblong-ovate, unequally biconvex, flattened or slightly inflated, usually leathery, granular, sessile, straw colored or yellowish brown to light brown, becoming red-dotted at maturity, 2.7-4.1 mm long, 1.5-2.5 mm wide. **Nerves:** 5-10 on both surfaces, obscure to prominent; marginal nerves prominent. **Beaks:** Abruptly contracted to prominently or obscurely bidentate, somewhat dark and subciliate between the teeth, 0.2-1 mm long.

ACHENE: Obovate, elliptic or nearly orbicular, lenticular, light to dark brown, 1.2-2.5 mm long, 0.9-1.8 mm wide. **Stigmas:** 2.

HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION: Wet meadows, swamps, and ditches, often in alkaline soil from **lowlands to moderate elevations**. Common and widely distributed, wholly east of the Cascade Mountains. British Columbia south to California and east to New Mexico, Kansas, and South Dakota. One of the more tolerant sedges to disturbances such as grazing. **May-August.**

SIMILAR SPECIES: See appendix, table 3.