Native Plant of the Month

Slough Sedge
Carex obnupta

- Slough sedge is a grass-like plant that grows in wet meadows and standing water as found in "sloughs" and wetlands.
- This plant is usually submerged in late winter when amphibians, such as the red-legged frog and salamanders, attach their egg masses to the stems.
- The large crop of seeds produced is important food for dozens of bird species.
- The new growth in spring is browsed by many animals and leaves are used in nests.
- Coastal native people continue to use the leaves for fine traditional baskets.

Landscape Value

Slough sedge is a perennial evergreen plant that forms attractive clumps of dark green foliage with interesting flower spikes from spring through summer.

Easily grown in full sun to part shade, slough sedge prefers a wet location, and will also thrive in a landscape setting with rich soil and occasional water. It will self-sow easily from seed.

There are many other species of sedges that have ornamental value and will tolerate a wide range of landscape settings including: Dewey's, Fox, and Henderson's sedge. Plant with camas, lupine, red osier dogwood, and wild rose.

Text by Heidi Bohan
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