

2025 Native Plant of Distinction: Palm Sedge (*Carex muskingumensis*)



Lake Erie Allegheny Partnership
for Biodiversity
leapbio.org



Photos by Johnson's Nursery (top), Mervin Wallace, Missouri Prairie Foundation (middle), & Dave's Garden (bottom)

Unique Characteristics

Palm sedge has a feathery or palm-like appearance with leaves that remain green through most of the winter. Grows well in poorly-drained clay soil. Extensive root system is effective in stabilizing soil to prevent erosion. Black walnut tolerant. Not recommended for small gardens.

Plant Type: Grass/sedge

Native Range: Central & upper Midwest

Sun: Full sun to full shade

Water: Medium

Soil: Prefers moist, fertile soil, but adaptable to a wide range

Height: 3 feet

Spread: 2 to 3 feet; Rhizomatous; colony forming

Wildlife: Host for several Satyr butterfly larvae; deer resistant; seeds eaten by many species of birds and small mammals

Hardiness Zones: 4 to 8

Bloom Time: May to September

Fall Color: Green with copper colored seed heads

Uses: Ground cover; rain gardens



April is
**Ohio Native
Plant Month**