

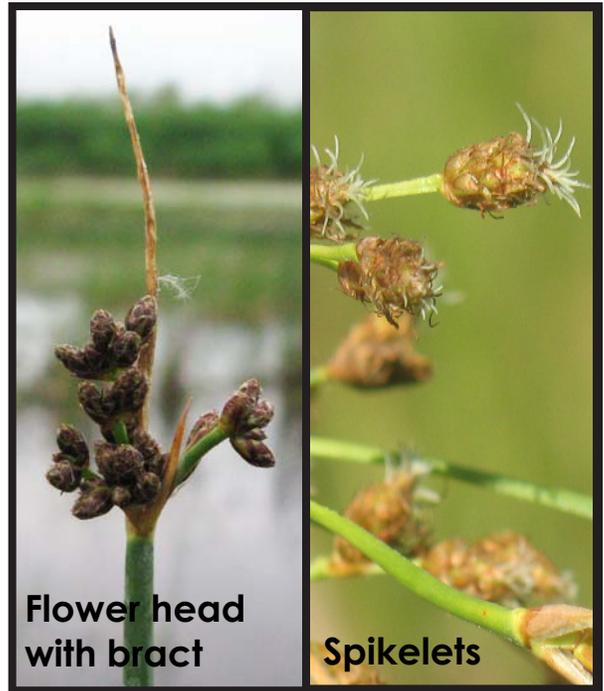
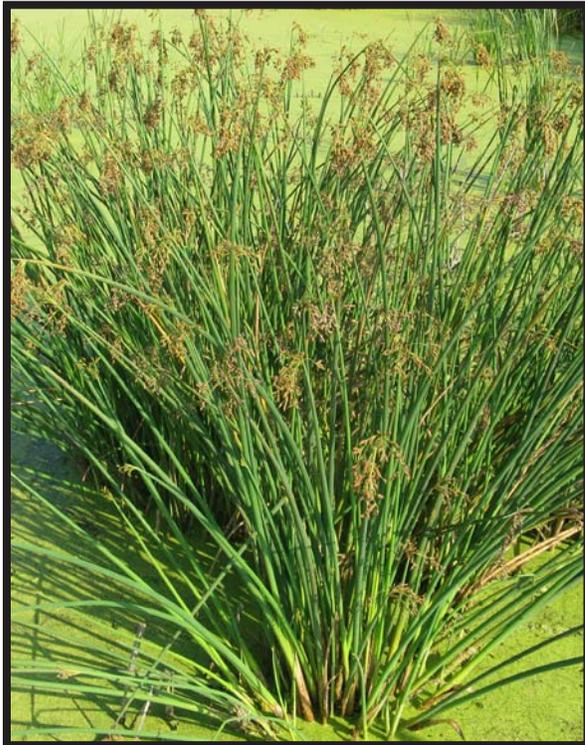
Softstem bulrush

Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani

Minnesota C-Value: 4

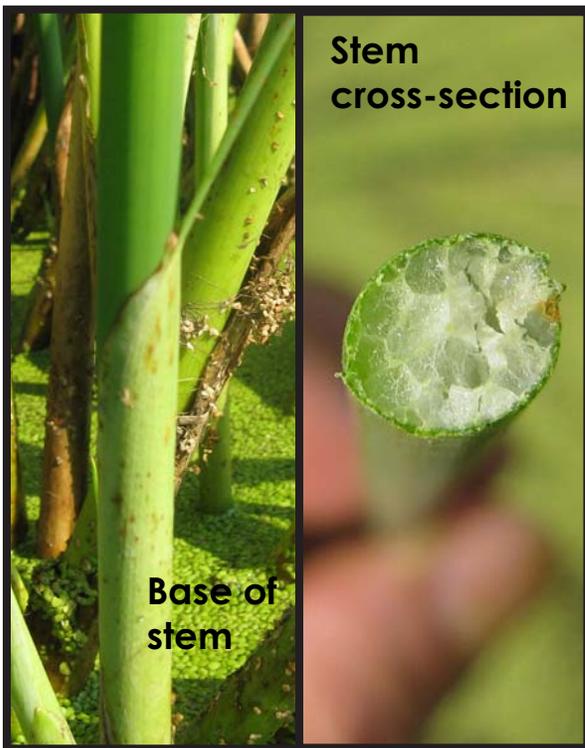
Wetland Indicator Status: OBL

Native



Flower head with bract

Spikelets



Stem cross-section

Base of stem

Leaves: 4-5 leaves reduced to sheaths at bottom of stem.

Stems: Stem 3 ft-6 ft tall, cylindrical, bluish-green with a bract that extends beyond the spikelets at top of stem. Stem crushes between fingers easily. Stem cross section shows large open air-spaces, making the stem soft.

Flowers and fruit: Drooping spikelets with several flowers per spikelet. Spikelets up to 1/2 in. at top of head. Flowers covered in reddish brown scales.

Plant communities: Shallow and deep marshes, wet prairies, ponds, lakes, rivers. Tolerates standing water.

Comments: Looks similar to hardstem bulrush (*Schoenoplectus acutus*), but softstem bulrush has more airspace in the stem, making it easier to crush between the fingers. Hardstem bulrush is darker green with many small air chambers, resulting in a sturdier stem.