



Clumps of Long-Haired Sedge in a marsh at Ferguson Springs, Trigg County, Kentucky (LBL).

LONG-HAIRED SEDGE

Carex crinita Lam.

Look for the dense tussocks of this sedge in almost all wetlands, but especially in marshy areas around the reservoirs. The spikes occur in drooping clusters and protruding scales of the pistillate flowers give it a hairy appearance. Plants are often more than three feet in height. Flowers-fruits are present from early summer-autumn. Although abundant, sedges are of little economic importance except as wildlife food. Pith from the culms of *Cyperus papyrus* (*Cyperus* is another large genus of Cyperaceae), was used by the Egyptians nearly 2500 years ago to make paper (Cyperaceae, the Sedge Family).

Pistillate (female) spikes (three shown) and staminate (male) spike of Long-Haired Sedge.

