

Terrestrial & Palustrine Plant Communities Of Pennsylvania

By Jean Fike

Prairie sedge - spotted joe-pye-weed marsh

This community type is dominated by graminoids with a mixture of forbs and shrubs. It occurs in areas influenced by calcareous waters. The substrate is mineral soil, often with a thin layer of muck over a restrictive layer of clay or clay-loam soils. Characteristic species include *Carex prairea* (prairie sedge), *Eupatorium maculatum* (spotted joe-pye-weed), *C. tetanica* (wood's sedge), *C. schweinitzii* (Schweinitz's sedge), *C. interior* (a sedge), *Juncus articus* var. *littoralis* (Baltic rush), *J. nodosus* (knotted rush), *Vernonia noveboracensis* (New York ironweed), *Glyceria* spp. (mannagrass), *Galium* spp. (cleavers), and *Eleocharis intermedia*^s (matted spike-rush). The overall aspect is often that of a mosaic, with the wettest areas containing species like *Equisetum fluviatile* (water horsetail), *Potamogeton crispus*ⁱ (curly pondweed), and *Typha latifolia* (common cat-tail). Shrubs, especially *Ribes hirtellum* (northern wild-gooseberry), may occur scattered throughout, especially in drier areas.

Related types: This type is distinguished from the other marsh types by the presence of calciphilic species.

Range: Entire state (?)

Selected references: Golet and Larson 1974, Smith 1991.

[Crosswalk: Smith's "Calcareous Marsh," TNC's (?).]