

“Emergent” species typically grow up out of standing water in wetlands and wet meadows, and along shorelines. Here we present the second in an occasional series profiling emergent species common in western Washington.



Lyngbye's sedge (*Carex lyngbyei*) – This near-shore species is perfect for slightly salty shorelines that need more vegetation. *Carex lyngbyei* has a deep rhizomatous rooting structure that develops into dense stands with culms ranging from 10–51” in height. The extensive stands flower from April to July, and the foliage provides an important food source for migrating geese. In salt marshes, the decomposing leaves supply nutrients throughout the long winter, indirectly helping to feed young salmonids. This species establishes well from plugs, and has great success when used in restoration projects invaded by Yellow flag Iris.

Tufted hair grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*) – This keystone species for wet meadows forms dense tufts up to 5’ tall. It grows in tidal marshes, and may be found on lakeshore and river bars as well. *Deschampsia* handles full sun and blooms from June–September. While tolerant of drought and salt-water conditions, it will not survive year-round flooding. The mounded clumps of this species help define

the wetland plant community and the foliage provides food and shelter for a variety of wildlife. With a rapid growth rate and high transplant success *Deschampsia cespitosa* is a great addition to an emergent wetland project.



Woolly sedge (*Scirpus cyperinus*) – Also known as *Scirpus atrocinctus*, this nonrhizomatous herbaceous perennial forms dense, raised tufts between 31–60” tall. It is often found in less disturbed sites, including shallow acidic marshes. The firm, almost woody stems put forth flowers from July to August. Woolly sedge provides an excellent food source for grazing waterfowl, and the robust grass-like leaves are perfect nesting material.

Small-fruited bulrush (*Scirpus microcarpus*) – This full-sun loving, vigorous grower can be found in sloughs, streambanks and disturbed sites, especially with inundated nitrogen rich soils. The creeping rhizomes support stout and robust plants that grow rapidly and establish readily, providing high transplant success. *Scirpus microcarpus* has flower spiklets born in small clusters on the stalks of the plant from June to August, and prefers sites that stay wet year round. The dense basal clumps grow to between 24–60” in height providing valuable habitat, food and nesting material for a variety of wildlife. This species is often used in rain gardens.

