



# Plant Collection Information Sheet

## Black needle rush (*Juncus roemerianus*)

**Scientific Name:** *Juncus roemerianus* Scheele

**Common Name:** Black needle rush

### Morphological Characteristics:

- grass-like perennial
- height of 1 to 5 feet
- course and rigid spike like leaves
- one form produces perfect (bisexual flowers) and another form produces pistillate (unisexual) flowers
- growing in brackish marshes in dense zonal stands
- occupies the edge of ditches and shorelines of bays, back bays and tributaries of tidal systems
- full sunlight
- pH limit 4.0 - 7.0



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### Conservation Use:

Why collect this plant?

In Louisiana there is a lack of locally-adapted native (ecotypic) plant materials for use in revegetation projects. The **Louisiana Native Plant Initiative (LNPI)** was established to collect, evaluate and release new plant materials for use in Louisiana. The goals of the LNPI are to conserve a vanishing natural resource and provide an essential step in the development of a native plant industry in Louisiana. Commercial growers will then be able to supply plant material for restoration, revegetation, roadside plantings and the ornamental plant industry that are adapted to the state.

Louisiana NRCS in cooperation with LNPI has identified Black needle rush, *Juncus roemerianus* as a plant meeting project objectives. Plant and seed collections supporting **LNPI** are targeted for all Louisiana Parishes.

Future ecotype development will benefit the following conservation practice standards: 342 Critical Area Planting; 562 Recreation Area Improvement; 327 Conservation Cover; 643 Restoration and Management of Rare or Declining Habitats; 647 Early Successional Habitat Development/Management; and others.

Your assistance in collecting this plant helps support the NRCS conservation practice standards which are employed daily to conserve the natural resources of Louisiana!

### Centers Requesting Seed:

Golden Meadow Plant Materials Center

## **How to Collect Seed and Plants:**

1. Identify native plant stands in your area. Use field guides and websites for helpful photos.
2. Vegetative material may be collected by digging a 1 foot square of material from the stand. Place the material in a plastic bag to prevent the roots from drying out.
3. Determine if seed is mature. Mature seed is typically dry and will easily separate from the seed head.
4. Hand strip mature seed by grasping the bottom of the seed head or pod then gently pulling away from the base of the plant. Deposit seed in a brown paper sack. Collect seed from as many plants as possible.
5. Label each collection as it is made so collections do not get mixed up. Information required includes: Collector's name, number of plants collected, location (parish, city, highway, and GPS coordinates), site description (soil type, slope, and plants growing in association).
6. Complete NRCS-ECS-580; Plant Collection Information Form and mail with collected seeds to the NRCS Plant Materials Center requesting the species.

USDA-NRCS  
Golden Meadow Plant Materials Center  
438 Airport Road  
Galliano, LA 70354

## **Helpful Tips:**

Look for plants that display differences in color, height, or forage abundance and record observations. Individual collections should be made from different sites or locations that are separated by unique topographic conditions or by at least one mile.

## **Other Photos:**

<http://plants.usda.gov>

<http://www.wildflower.org>



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