

Bog Birch – Willow Prairie Fen

Site Characteristics: Examples occur where surface waters are circumneutral to moderately alkaline, with moderate nutrient levels, shallow peat or, more rarely, on wet mineral soils.

Vegetation Characteristics: This community has a shrub layer with 25-70% cover, abundant herbaceous species, and sparse to abundant mosses. The most abundant shrub species are Bog Birch, Shrubby Cinquefoil, and Willow species.

Range:

Conservation Status: G3 – Vulnerable

Management Considerations: Because fens are dependent on specific groundwater hydrology factors, they are susceptible to impacts on groundwater flow from outside the protected area.



Iowa NRCS Plant Community Description

This community description is a compilation of the Community Association and its over-riding Community Alliance descriptions as provided by NatureServe (www.natureserve.org/explorer). Where necessary, community descriptions were adapted as recommended by Iowa plant community experts.

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BOG BIRCH - WILLOW PRAIRIE FEN						
SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	STRATA	FUNCTIONAL GROUP	IA CofC	SEEDS/LB	STATE STATUS
<i>Betula pumila</i>	Swamp birch	Shrub Layer, Dominant	SHRUB	9	480,000	T
<i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i>	Bluejoint	Herbaceous Layer	P-GRASS, COOL SEASON	5	4,480,000	
<i>Calamagrostis stricta</i>	Northern reed grass	Herbaceous Layer	P-GRASS, COOL SEASON	7	2,302,499	
<i>Carex aquatilis</i>	Water sedge	Herbaceous Layer	P-SEDGE, COOL SEASON	7	795,776	
<i>Carex interior</i>	Prairie star sedge	Herbaceous Layer	P-SEDGE, COOL SEASON	7	624,000	
<i>Carex lasiocarpa</i>	Woollyfruit Sedge	Herbaceous Layer	P-SEDGE, COOL SEASON	10	224,000	
<i>Carex oligocarpa</i>	Few-fruited gray sedge	Herbaceous Layer	P-SEDGE, COOL SEASON	6		
<i>Carex pellita</i>	Wooly sedge	Herbaceous Layer	P-SEDGE, COOL SEASON	4	448,000	
<i>Carex spp.</i>	True Sedges	Herbaceous Layer	SEDGE, COOL SEASON			
<i>Dasiphora fruticosa floribunda</i>	Shrubby cinquefoil	Shrub Layer, Dominant	SHRUB	10	2,267,962	T
<i>Doellingeria umbellata</i>	Flat-topped aster, white aster	Herbaceous Layer	P-FORB	6	1,072,000	
<i>Eleocharis spp.</i>	Spikerush	Herbaceous Layer	SEDGE, COOL SEASON			
<i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i>	Tall cotton-grass	Herbaceous Layer	P-SEDGE, COOL SEASON	8	160,000	SC
<i>Eriophorum spp.</i>	Cottongrass	Herbaceous Layer	P-SEDGE, COOL SEASON			
<i>Euthamia graminifolia</i>	Grass-leaved goldenrod	Herbaceous Layer	P-FORB	5	5,600,000	
<i>Lobelia kalmii</i>	Kalm's lobelia	Herbaceous Layer	P-FORB	10	28,349,523	SC
<i>Lycopus uniflorus</i>	Northern bugleweed	Herbaceous Layer	P-FORB	7	2,090,287	
<i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i>	Buckbean	Herbaceous Layer	P-FORB	10	65,000	T
<i>Salix discolor</i>	Pussy willow	Shrub Layer	SHRUB	3	1,417,476	
<i>Salix petiolaris</i>	Meadow willow	Shrub Layer	SHRUB	8	498,453	
<i>Salix spp.</i>	Willow	Shrub Layer, Dominant				
<i>Sphagnum spp.</i>	Sphagnum moss	Herbaceous Layer				
<i>Thelypteris palustris</i>	Marsh fern	Herbaceous Layer	FERN	6		
<i>Triadenum fraseri</i>	Marsh St. John's wort	Herbaceous Layer	P-FORB	7	3,680,000	

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