

## Prairie Transition Rich Fen

**Site Characteristics:** Stands are found on wet, saturated soils (but not seepage) with groundwater influence, on lake margins, or on grounded or floating mats. Peat depths may be less than 0.5 m and stands may be on shallow, highly decomposed sedge peat or rarely on wet, mineral soil. Stands are found in calcareous, gravelly moraines and occur on wet, saturated soils with groundwater influence or on the edges of lake margins and on grounded or floating mats. Water levels may be near the surface throughout the growing season. The peat is typically sedge peat and lacks sphagnum, and may be less than 0.5 m deep. Stands may also occur on shallow, highly decomposed peat, or, more rarely, on wet, mineral soil.

**Vegetation Characteristics:** The graminoid layer is often dominated by woollyfruit sedge, with associates of water sedge, dark-scaled sedge, prairie star sedge, wooly sedge, running marsh sedge, common tussock sedge, swamp loosestrife, three-way sedge, marsh spikerush, tall cottongrass, American manna grass, and hard-stemmed bulrush. Prairie and other herbs are present. Shrub cover is variable and may exceed 25%.

**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](http://www.natureserve.org/explorer)). Where necessary, community descriptions were adapted as recommended by Iowa plant community experts.

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SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	STRATA	FUNCTIONAL GROUP	IA CofC	SEEDS/LB	STATE STATUS
<i>Agalinis paupercula</i>	False foxglove	Herbaceous Layer	A-FORB, HEMIPARASITE	8		
<i>Betula pumila</i>	Swamp birch	Shrub Layer	SHRUB	9	480,000.00	T
<i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i>	Bluejoint	Herbaceous Layer	P-GRASS, COOL SEASON	5	4,480,000.00	
<i>Calamagrostis stricta</i>	Northern reed grass	Herbaceous Layer	P-GRASS, COOL SEASON	7	2,302,499.00	
<i>Calopogon tuberosus</i>	Grass pink orchid	Herbaceous Layer	P-FORB	10		SC
<i>Carex aquatilis</i>	Water sedge	Shrub Layer, Dominant	P-SEDGE, COOL SEASON	7	795,776.00	
<i>Carex buxbaumii</i>	Dark-scaled sedge	Herbaceous Layer, Dominant	P-SEDGE, COOL SEASON	8	232,000.00	
<i>Carex interior</i>	Prairie star sedge	Herbaceous Layer, Dominant	P-SEDGE, COOL SEASON	7	624,000.00	
<i>Carex lasiocarpa</i>	Woollyfruit Sedge	Shrub Layer, Dominant	P-SEDGE, COOL SEASON	10	224,000.00	
<i>Carex pellita</i>	Wooly sedge	Herbaceous Layer, Dominant	P-SEDGE, COOL SEASON	4	448,000.00	
<i>Carex sartwellii</i>	Running marsh sedge	Herbaceous Layer, Dominant	P-SEDGE, COOL SEASON	7	1,014,748.00	
<i>Carex stricta</i>	Common tussock sedge	Herbaceous Layer, Dominant	P-SEDGE, COOL SEASON	6	848,000.00	
<i>Comarum palustre</i>	Marsh cinquefoil	Herbaceous Layer	P-FORB	9	115,200.00	
<i>Dasiphora fruticosa floribunda</i>	Shrubby cinquefoil	Shrub Layer	SHRUB	10	2,267,962.00	T
<i>Decodon verticillatus</i>	Swamp loosestrife	Herbaceous Layer, Dominant	SUB-SHRUB	10	621,359.00	E
<i>Drosera rotundifolia</i>	Sundew	Herbaceous Layer	P-FORB	10		E
<i>Dulichium arundinaceum</i>	Three-way sedge	Herbaceous Layer, Dominant	P-SEDGE, COOL SEASON	9	624,000.00	
<i>Eleocharis palustris</i>	Marsh spikerush	Herbaceous Layer, Dominant	P-SEDGE, COOL SEASON	6	816,000.00	
<i>Equisetum fluviatile</i>	Swamp horsetail	Herbaceous Layer	FERN	8		
<i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i>	Tall cotton-grass	Herbaceous Layer, Dominant	P-SEDGE, COOL SEASON	8	160,000.00	SC
<i>Euthamia graminifolia</i>	Grass-leaved goldenrod	Herbaceous Layer	P-FORB	5	5,600,000.00	
<i>Galium labradoricum</i>	Bog bedstraw	Herbaceous Layer	P-FORB	10	453,592.00	E
<i>Glyceria grandis</i>	American manna grass	Herbaceous Layer, Dominant	P-GRASS, COOL SEASON	6	1,280,000.00	
<i>Impatiens capensis</i>	Spotted touch-me-not	Herbaceous Layer	A-FORB	3	64,000.00	
<i>Lobelia kalmii</i>	Kalm's lobelia	Herbaceous Layer	P-FORB	10	28,349,523.00	SC
<i>Lycopus uniflorus</i>	Northern bugleweed	Herbaceous Layer	P-FORB	7	2,090,287.00	
<i>Lysimachia thyrsiflora</i>	Tufted loosestrife	Herbaceous Layer	P-FORB	7	1,312,000.00	

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SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	STRATA	FUNCTIONAL GROUP	IA CofC	SEEDS/LB	STATE STATUS
<i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i>	Buckbean	Herbaceous Layer	P-FORB	10	65,000.00	T
<i>Pedicularis lanceolata</i>	Swamp lousewort	Herbaceous Layer	P-FORB, HEMIPARASITE	7	704,000.00	
<i>Rhynchospora capillacea</i>	Beaked rush	Herbaceous Layer	P-SEDGE, COOL SEASON	10	412,357.00	T
<i>Salix candida</i>	Sage willow	Shrub Layer	SHRUB	8		SC
<i>Salix pedicellaris</i>	Bog willow	Shrub Layer	SHRUB	10		T
<i>Schoenoplectus acutus</i>	Hard-stemmed bulrush	Herbaceous Layer, Dominant	P-SEDGE, COOL SEASON	4	206,400.00	
<i>Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani</i>	Soft-stemmed bulrush	Herbaceous Layer, Dominant	P-SEDGE, COOL SEASON	3	496,000.00	
<i>Scleria verticillata</i>	Low nut-rush	Herbaceous Layer	A-SEDGE, COOL SEASON	10		T
<i>Selaginella eclipes</i>	Meadow spikemoss	Herbaceous Layer	FERN	9		E
<i>Sphagnum spp.</i>	Sphagnum moss	Herbaceous Layer				
<i>Triadenum fraseri</i>	Marsh St. John's wort	Herbaceous Layer	P-FORB	7	3,680,000.00	
<i>Utricularia spp.</i>	Bladderwort	Herbaceous Layer	P-FORB			

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