

***Schoenoplectus acutus* var. *acutus*****Synonyms**

*Scirpus acutus* var. *acutus*, *Scirpus lacustris* (4)

**Common name**

hardstem bulrush

**Range**

Throughout western North America (4)

**Climate, elevation**

Wetlands, low to mid elevations (6).

**Local occurrence (where, how common)**

Locally abundant in perennially wet areas (3).

**Habitat preferences**

Marshes, muddy shores, shallow water (fresh and brackish) at low to mid elevations (3, 6).

**Plant strategy**

Germinates and establishes best in moist bare soil. Wetland obligate and dominant species in wetland environments (2).

**Associated species**

Sedges, rushes, cattails.

**May be collected as:**

Seed, rhizomes (1).

**Collection restrictions or guidelines**

Seeds mature in late August through September. Because they are easily dispersed by wind, it is important to collect seeds close to time of maturity.

Seeds need to be cleaned and separated from the panicle (1).

**Seed germination**

Germination rate increases with cold stratification of 2°C for 30-75 days. Prewashing with 10% acid solution prior to a 75 day cold stratification has also been tried (1).

**Propagation recommendations**

Plants can be propagated with either seeds or rhizomes (5). Seeds require light for germination. Press in lightly to assure good soil contact, but do not cover the seed. Soil should be kept moist until plants are transplanted. Germination should begin within 7-10 days (1).

**Soil or medium requirements**

Fine to medium textured soil (4).

**Installation form (form, potential for successful outcomes, cost)**

Rhizomes (most common), seedlings, or direct seed.



**Care requirements after installed (water weekly, water once etc.)**

Soil must be kept moist. It is suggested to plant only in wetlands. If wetland is seasonally wet, and plants are small at time of installment, monitor soil moisture and water as needed.

**Normal rate of growth or spread; lifespan**

Moderate growth rate; long lifespan (4).

**Sources cited**

1. Hoag, J.C. 1998. [Plant Fact Sheet: Scirpus acutus \(hardstem bulrush\)](#). USDA-NRCS Aberdeen Plant Materials Center, Aberdeen, ID. Aug. 1998. 3p. (22 KB) (ID# 1063)
2. <http://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/plants/graminoid/sciacu/introductory.html>
3. Pojar, J. and A. MacKinnon. Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast-Washington, Oregon, British Columbia and Alaska. B.C. Ministry of Forest and Lone Pine Publishing. 1994
4. USDA Plant Database. "Schoenoplectus acutus var. acutus" <http://plants.usda.gov> [http://plants.usda.gov/cgi\\_bin/plant\\_attribute.cgi?symbol=SCACA](http://plants.usda.gov/cgi_bin/plant_attribute.cgi?symbol=SCACA)
5. Water Quality Program, Washington State Department of Ecology. "Scirpus acutus". <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/plants/plantid2/descriptions/sci.html>
6. Environmental Services, Washington Department of Transportation. "Scirpus acutus" <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/environment/culres/ethbot/q-s/Scirpus.htm>.

Data compiled by Sacha Johnson (5/19/2004)