












Carex tumulicola vs. Carex divulsa

Often mistaken for native *Carex tumulicola*, *C. divulsa* is weedy and can create management problems for the city and our residents. *C. divulsa* cannot be planted in city green streets or restoration projects. Inspect all shipments of *C. tumulicola* and reject *C. divulsa* plants from city deliveries. Here's how to identify them.

When accepting a delivery:

	YES	NO
<input type="checkbox"/> STEP 1. Are the plants labeled <i>C. tumulicola</i>?	 Go to next step.	 If they are labeled <i>C. divulsa</i> , REJECT the shipment.
<input type="checkbox"/> STEP 2. Do the plants have current or last year's inflorescences? 	 Go to next step.	 REJECT any plants without current or last year's inflorescences.
<input type="checkbox"/> STEP 3. Check the inflorescence shape. Are all the spikelets clustered together?   INFLORESCENCE SHAPE	 Accept.  <small>Institute for Applied Ecology</small>	 The plant is <i>C. divulsa</i> if the inflorescences are interrupted and have internodes (gaps) between spikelets (see photo below). REJECT the plants.  <small>City of Portland Environmental Services</small>

If in doubt, contact the Environmental Services Invasive Species Program at 503-823-4899 to coordinate an inspection of a plant delivery.



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
CITY OF PORTLAND
working for clean rivers



PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION
Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland

Carex tumulicola vs. Carex divulsa

Foothill sedge, *Carex tumulicola*, is native to the West Coast and often used in landscaping and restoration. In Portland, the sedge is commonly planted in green streets and natural areas.

Background

There has been doubt about the assignment of horticultural foothill sedge to *C. tumulicola*. In 2005 California botanists determined that many plants sold as *C. tumulicola* were actually *C. divulsa*, an introduced species commonly known as Berkley, grey, or grassland sedge (Curto 2006). Recently, most sedges planted as *C. tumulicola* in Portland have also been determined to be *C. divulsa*.

Why does it matter?

C. divulsa can be weedy and has already escaped from Portland green streets and natural areas where it has accidentally been planted. While native sedges, including *C. tumulicola*, are assets in green streets and natural areas, accidental weedy plantings can create management problems for everyone. By assuring proper identification of *C. tumulicola*, we can continue to use this plant in restoration settings and green streets, avoid costly management and herbicide use, and maintain the value of nursery stock sold for restoration.



Carex tumulicola
in flower.

INSTITUTE FOR APPLIED
ECOLOGY

REFERENCES

Curto, M. 2006. Berkely sedge is European grey sedge. Pacific Horticulture, July 2006. Online. Accessed 12-15-15. <http://www.pacifichorticulture.org/articles/berkeley-sedge-is-eurasian-grey-sedge/>.

Wilson, B.L., R.E. Brainerd, D. Lytjen, B. Newhouse, and N. Otting. 2014. Field Guide to the Sedges of the Pacific Northwest, 2nd ed. Corvallis, OR, Oregon State University Press.