



Photo from Lake Champlain Commons





SOFT-STEMMED BULRUSH

Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani

Habitat Preference

Found in standing water up to three feet deep along lake and pond margins, and may form dense stands.

Characteristics



Vegetative

Perennial plant that grows up to ten feet tall. The leaves are modified into long sheaths that wrap tightly to stem bases. Stem is spongy and delicate to the touch.

Flowers

Open *inflorescence* (8) of many stalked, budlike spikelets, covered by reddish brown scales below the top of the stem.

Fruit

Brownish gray *achene* (1).

Ecological Contributions to Lake Champlain

- Seeds are an important food source for waterfowl.
- Used to reduce pollutant loads carried by *stormwater runoff* (22) in urban wetlands.
- Bulrush forms a buffer against wind and wave action, thus permitting other aquatic plants to grow in an otherwise unfavorable environment.

