

Plant Indicator Species for Circumneutral Bog Lake

The plants described below can often be used as field indicators for identifying this habitat when other physical and biological features of the habitat are present.

softstem bulrush (*Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani*)

(bulrush) **synonyms:** *Scirpus tabernaemontani*
Scirpus validus

- typically 3 – 6 ft tall (can be up to 8 ft); usually in standing water
- stem stout, hollow, easily crushed
- inflorescence a branched, drooping spray emerging near top of stem



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hardstem bulrush (*Schoenoplectus acutus* var. *acutus*)

(bulrush) **synonym:** *Scirpus acutus*

- typically 3 – 6 ft tall (can be up to 9 ft); usually in standing water
- stem stout, hollow, firm
- inflorescence a branched spray emerging near top of stem



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fragrant pond-lily (*Nymphaea odorata*)

(forb)

- leaves floating, roundish, with angular notch at junction with petiole
- flower large, white or sometimes pink (July – August)



W.C. Justice,
courtesy Smithsonian Institution



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water-willow (*Decodon verticillatus*) (forb)

- typically 3 – 5 ft tall (up to 9 ft), and in standing water
- stem often arched, rooting at the tip
- leaves in whorls of 3 or 4
- flowers whitish or pink, in clusters emerging from leaf axils (July – September)



Ulrich Lorimer

leatherleaf (*Chamaedaphne calyculata*) (shrub)

- usually 2 – 4 ft tall
- leaves evergreen, oval, leathery
- leaves reduced in size toward tips of twigs
- flowers white, bell-like, pendulous
- fruit brown; capsules persist through winter



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