

Plant Indicator Species for Wet Clay Meadow

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.

crested sedge (*Carex cristatella*) (sedge)

- inflorescence a spike of closely aggregated, spherical spikelets



pineapple sedge (*Carex squarrosa*) (sedge)

- inflorescence a dense, spiny-looking, pineapple-shaped spike; rarely more than one spike per stem
- if two or more spikes, or if leaves surpass spikes, then you may have either of the rare species *C. typhina* or *C. frankii* (consult technical manuals)



fox sedge (*Carex vulpinoidea*) (sedge)

- usually 1.5 – 3 ft tall
- inflorescence in elongate spike
- leaves surpass inflorescence (this helps to distinguish *C. vulpinoidea* from the very similar *C. annectens*)



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small-flowered agrimony (*Agrimonia parviflora*)

(forb)

- primary leaflets long, narrow, coarsely-toothed interspersed with very small secondary leaflets
- stems and leaves hairy
- flowers small, yellow (July – September), loosely arranged in spike with sticky axis
- fruit tiny, hemispherical, with hooked bristles that often attach to clothing



beardtongue (*Penstemon digitalis*)

(forb)

- plants typically 2 - 4 ft tall
- flowers white, tubular, sometimes sticky, throat abruptly swollen (late summer)
- leaves sessile (stalkless) and opposite



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