

Plant Indicator Species for Calcareous Wet 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.

yellow sedge (*Carex flava*) (sedge)

- usually 8 - 20 in tall (sometimes taller)
- female spikes spherical to slightly oblong, yellowish
- fruiting late May – July



drooping bulrush (*Scirpus pendulus*) (bulrush)

- inflorescence a drooping, branched spray at top of stem (like many other bulrushes)
- spikelets oblong, compressed
- similar to woolgrass, but spikelets proportionately more elongate



sweetflag (*Acorus calamus*) (forb)

- leaves long, sword-shaped (iris-like), with off-center midvein
- leaves with spicy fragrance when crushed
- flower spike (spadix) stout, thumb-like, green to yellow, emerges from side of flattened stem



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small-flowered agrimony (*Agrimonia parviflora*)

(forb)

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



blue vervain (*Verbena hastata*)

(forb)

- plants typically 3 - 5 ft tall
- spikes of small purple flowers in candelabra-like arrangement at top of stem
- flowers bloom a few at a time, starting at bottom of each spike (July – September)
- leaves opposite, toothed
- stems grooved, four-angled in cross-section



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Plant Indicator Species for Calcareous Wet Meadow

New York ironweed (*Vernonia noveboracensis*) (forb)

- robust plant 3 – 5+ ft tall
- branched inflorescence at top of stem, with deep-purple composite flowers (August – October)
- leaves alternate, stalkless, finely toothed, long and pointed



rough-leaved goldenrod (*Solidago patula*) (forb)

- flowering stalk 2 – 5+ ft tall, sharply four-angled
- plume of yellow flowers similar to many other goldenrods (August – October)
- basal leaves large (to 12+ in), egg-shaped, rough on upper surface



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