

# River bulrush

*Schoenoplectus fluviatilis*

Minnesota C-Value: 4  
Wetland Indicator Status: OBL  
Native



**Leaves:** 6-15 mm wide, M-shaped cross section.

**Stems:** Sharply triangular, smooth, sturdy and leafy, up to 6 ft tall.

**Flowers and fruit:** 10-20 brown, nodding spikelets in flower head. 1 flower per scale, several scales in a spikelet, spikelets 1-3 cm long. Leaf-like bracts surpass inflorescence.

**Plant communities:** Deep and shallow marshes, river banks, lake shores.

**Comments:** Native perennial often forming dense colonies. Also classified as *Scirpus fluviatilis*. Looks similar to green bulrush (*S. atrovirens*) when not in flower, except river bulrush stems stay sharply triangular all the way up the stem until leaves break away. Green bulrush stems become rounded after the first few leaves nod away from stem.