

## Shady-Moist Native Perennial Garden Kit

*For garden areas with full to partial shade most of the day; moist, but not excessively wet or dry for long periods; can be irrigated during long, dry periods.*



**Long beaked sedge** *Carex sprengei*.

*Height:* 18" – 24" grows in fine textured, gracefully arching clumps, bright green

*Spacing at planting:* 18" – 24"

*Flower period:* May. Ripening seed heads are attractive

*Seed collection:* July – August. Seed is ready to collect when it falls away into your hand when gently pulled. You should collect at least some of the seed if you don't want to encourage more long beaked sedge plants near current ones.

*Propagation:* Seed should be sown fresh, immediately, rather than stored. This seed needs light to germinate and should not be covered. Germination will occur the following spring.

Long beaked sedge will spread naturally from dropped seed if there is open ground. It does not invade turf or other dense plantings because the seed needs open ground and light to germinate. If you find more new little seedlings than you want the following year, the new seedlings can be easily dug and transplanted.

*Notes on care:* Will tolerate short dry periods but should be watered occasionally in prolonged drought. Best to wait until late winter/early spring to trim back last year's tan leaves because they provide a good buffer from frost heaving for the sedge roots. They also provide good cover for soil life and thereby provide food for ground-foraging birds in those lean winter and early spring months. Tan leaves can be pulled off gently or trimmed back with sharp hand snips. They make a clean soil mulch or can be composted. If you happen to find a vole nest in *Carex sprengei* clumps over the winter, you may want to trim the "skirt" of longest tan leaves back to create openings between plants. Voles can cause problems for woody stems nearby.



**Common Oak Sedge** *Carex pensylvanica*

*Height:* 8" – 12" Has an attractive, fine textured, soft, green look. A beautiful, short groundcover under trees and shrubs.

*Spacing at planting:* 18" – 24"

*Flower period:* April – mid May, short brown spikes

*Seed collection:* Aug – Oct (seed will be sparse)

*Propagation:* Common Oak Sedge does not set copious amounts of seed and will not show up, unwanted, in new places around the garden. It spreads gradually by rhizome (not dangerously

aggressive; no scary rhizomes down deep). Over a few years, a few plants can become a beautiful, soft, 6" high ground cover in a small shady bed under trees or shrubs. It will not invade surrounding turf. This sedge is easy to divide and move to new areas in your yard or share with another gardener. Divide either in early fall or early spring.

*Notes on care:* Common Oak Sedge tolerates dry periods well. Best to wait until late winter/early spring to trim back last year's tan leaves because they provide protection from frost heaving for the sedge roots. They also provide good cover for soil life and thereby provide food for ground-foraging birds during the lean winter and early spring months. Last season's leaves can be pulled off gently in spring. They make a good, clean soil mulch or they can be composted. Because of *Carex pensylvanica's* short stature, it is fine to leave the previous year's tan leaves in place and not trim them off; new green growth will grow thru and look just fine. Ferns and fall asters, interplanted in well-spaced intervals, are attractive with *Carex pensylvanica*.



**Large-flowered bellwort *Uvularia grandiflora***

*Height:* 18" – 24" Upright clumps that grow wider over time and can be divided

*Spacing at planting:* 18" –24". Each plug will expand into a good-sized clump in a just a few years.

*Flower period:* April – May, yellow flowers hang like bells.

Important early flower for pollinators.

*Seed collection:* July – Aug

*Propagation:* Collected seeds can be sown after first frosts. If a bellwort clump grows too large for its space, it can be divided in early spring and divisions can be transplanted or given to another gardener.

*Notes on care:* Bellwort can be interplanted with Virginia Bluebells. Bluebells come up and flower first; as their foliage yellows and dies back, bellwort grows and covers. Bellwort and Solomon's seal clumps are good, side-by-side companions and create a lovely 2'-3' tall groundcover, year after year. (Native *Solomon's seal*, not the variegated cultivar). Both bellwort and Solomon's seal stand upright and remain green until frost. Once yellow, they both remain attractive for several more weeks into fall. Spent stems are easily removed thereafter and break down readily in the compost pile. Bellwort does not spread aggressively by seed or rhizome.