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25. © Perigynium removal improves seed germination in awl-fruit sedge (*Carex stipata*). Hough-Snee, N. and Cooper, D. C. Native Plants Journal 12(1):41-43. 2011.

Perigynium removal improves seed germination in awl-fruit sedge (*Carex stipata*)

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ABSTRACT

From our experiences, awl-fruit sedge (*Carex stipata* Muhl. ex Willd. [Cyperaceae]) is an easily propagated wetland plant in Washington State. Because seeds can be collected from the same growth year, germinated without stratification, and grown into plants, *C. stipata* can be quickly propagated during summer for fall and winter outplanting. We believed, however, that perigynium removal could improve success. We compared germination rates of intact seeds with those having perigynia removed and found that seeds stripped of their perigynia germinated at a greater rate and sooner than did intact seeds (average of 58% versus 21% of seeds at 6 wk). We conclude that removing seeds from their perigynia increases initial germination of *C. stipata*.

Hough-Snee N, Cooper DD. 2011. Perigynium removal improves seed germination in awl-fruit sedge (*Carex stipata*). Native Plants Journal 12(1):41–43.

KEY WORDS

propagation, seed dormancy, wetland sedges

NOMENCLATURE

USDA NRCS (2010)

Photos by Nate Hough-Snee