



***Carex grayi* - Gray's Sedge**

COMMON NAME: Bur Sedge, Gray Sedge, Morning Star Sedge

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Carex grayi* was named for the renowned American botanist Asa Gray (1810-1888). *Carex* is one genus of the sedges and comes from Latin meaning cutter in reference to the sharp leaves and stem edges.

FLOWER: Greenish spherical flower that resembles a starburst. These flowers are about 1 inch in diameter. They remain interesting looking even when they are brown seed-heads.

BLOOMING PERIOD: early summer

SIZE: 2 to 3 feet tall

BEHAVIOR: This is a perennial sedge that forms attractive slowly spreading clumps.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Moist, fertile soil in part sun to part shade. It thrives near water and can tolerate occasional flooding. Look for this sedge along the edge of wet prairies, marshes, creeks and rivers.

NATURAL RANGE: Gray's Sedge is native to all of the US east of the Mississippi River, Ontario and Quebec, plus Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas, Kansas and Oklahoma.

SPECIAL FEATURES: The narrow leaves are shiny, upright and are usually semi-evergreen. Leaves are about ½ inch wide and pleated. It is useful for landscaping in areas that are wet and may be shady. It is deer resistant.

SUGGESTED CARE: Be sure it is planted where it gets adequate water.

COMPANION PLANTS: Silver maple, sugar maple, river birch, green ash, green dragon, jack-in-the-pulpit, carrion-flowers.