PLANT FACT SHEET

# *Schoenoplectus acutus* (Muhl. ex Bigelow)

**GENUS** *Schoenoplectus* **FAMILY** Cyperaceae

**COMMON NAMES** Hardstem Bulrush

## EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

**Edible parts:** Leaves, Roots, Seeds

The young shoots and tender roots can be eaten raw. They can be sliced and served in salads.
The roots and shoots can be boiled and eaten.
The young shoots can be boiled for several hours to make a sweet syrup.
The seeds and pollen can be ground into flour. This can be used for biscuits.

## DESCRIPTION

A sedge. These grow in clumps and have grass like leaves and solid stalks. It keeps growing from year to year. It grows 1-3 m tall. It has a tough, thickened brown rhizome. The stems are unbranched and do not have leaves. The flowers grow near the tip of the stem. There are a cluster of heads. These are made up of overlapping scales. The fruit or seeds are hard and flat and 3-5 mm long.

## HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It grows on the banks of streams, lakes and ponds.

## PRODUCTION

### Cultivation

It can be grown from seeds or by division of the clump.

## NOTES

There are about 100 Scirpus species.

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