



**Common Name:** FRASER'S SEDGE

**Scientific Name:** *Cymophyllus fraserianus* (Ker-Gawler) Kartesz & Gandhi

**Other Commonly Used Names:** lily-leaf sedge

**Previously Used Scientific Names:** *Cymophyllus fraseri* (Andrews) Mackenzie, *Carex fraseriana* Ker-Gawler

**Family:** Cyperaceae (sedge)

**Rarity Ranks:** G4/S1

**State Legal Status:** Threatened

**Federal Legal Status:** none

**Federal Wetland Status:** FACW

**Description:** Perennial **herb** forming dense clumps of evergreen leaves. **Leaves** 8 - 24 inches (20 - 60 cm) long and up to 2 inches (5 cm) wide, strap-shaped, dark green, smooth, shiny, leathery, with many faint parallel veins but no midvein; leaf margins are wavy and finely toothed. **Flower stalk** 8 - 24 inches (20 - 60 cm) tall, with 4 - 6 sheaths wrapped around the base and topped by a spike of white flowers. **Female flowers** (lower portion of spike) produce 20 - 30

white fruit sacs per spike, each enclosing a small, 3-sided fruit. **Male flowers** (upper portion of spike) consist only of stamens. **Fruit** a 3-sided nutlet, up to 1/8 inch (3.2 mm) long.

**Similar Species:** No other sedge forms clumps of large, leathery, evergreen leaves. Plantain-leaved sedge (*Carex plantaginea*) has broad but pleated leaves with conspicuous veins. Broad-leaved sedge (*C. platyphylla*) has blue-green leaves with a strong midrib.

**Related Rare Species:** Fraser's sedge is the only species in this genus.

**Habitat:** Mountain coves and ravines, usually along streams in hardwood-hemlock forests with rosebay rhododendron and mountain laurel.

**Life History:** Fraser's sedge is a perennial herb that reproduces sexually. Unlike most members of the sedge family, which are wind-pollinated, Fraser's sedge is primarily pollinated by insects that are attracted to the showy, white inflorescences. Insects use the broad lower portion of the spike that holds the female flowers as a landing platform, shedding pollen picked up from a previously visited plant, then move upward into the pollen-bearing flowers at the top of the spike where they gather pollen that is carried to the next plant they visit.

**Survey Recommendations:** Surveys are best conducted during flowering (late April–May) and fruiting (May–June), but leaves are distinctive all year.

**Range:** Georgia, north to Pennsylvania in the Appalachian Mountains

**Threats:** Logging, clearing, and other soil disturbances. Overbrowsing by deer.

**Georgia Conservation Status:** Seven populations are known, most in the Chattahoochee National Forest.

**Conservation and Management Recommendations:** Avoid logging, clearing, trail construction, or other mechanical disturbances. Reduce the size of Georgia's deer herd. Protect plants from trampling and collecting.

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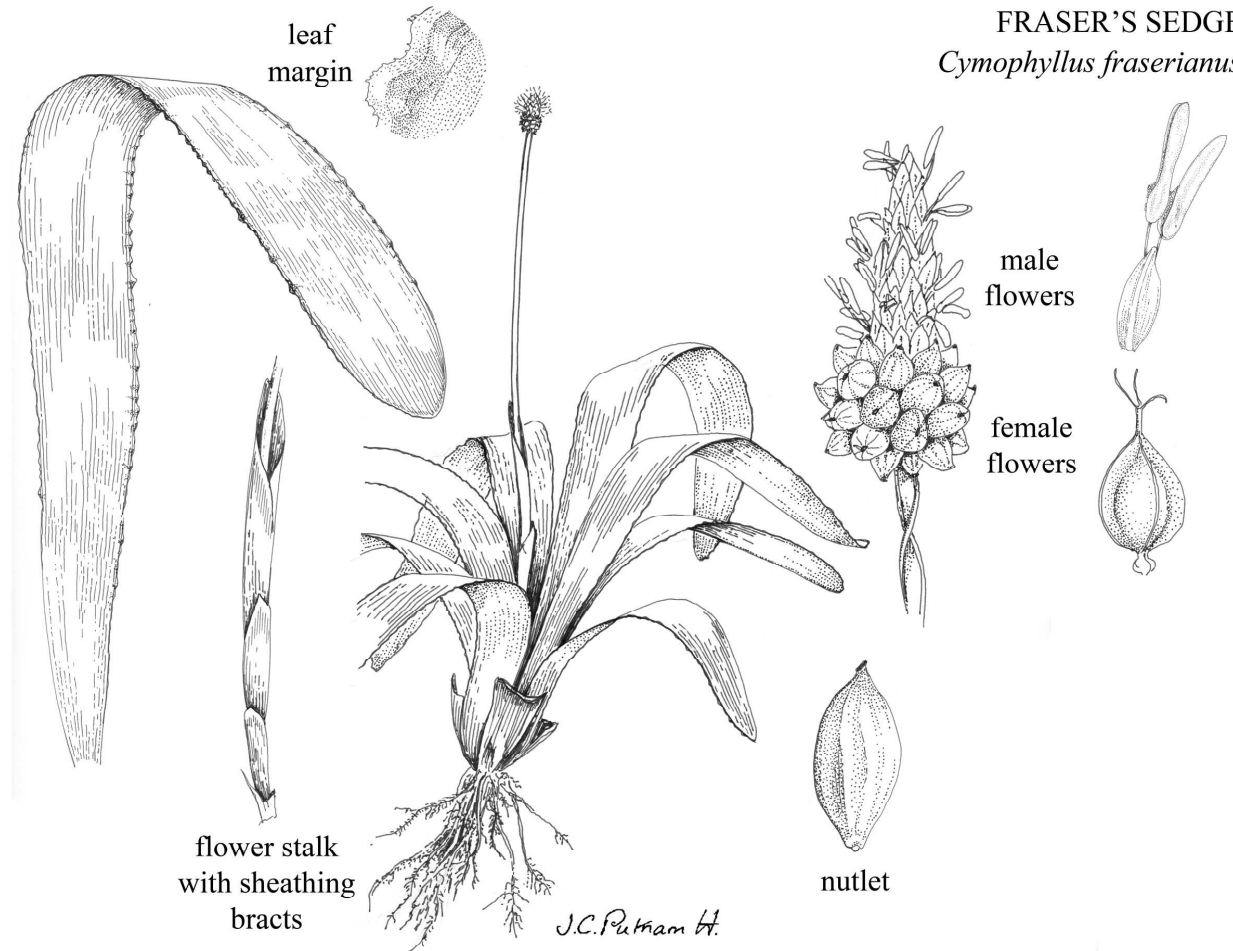
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**Date Compiled or Updated:**

L. Chafin, April 2007: original account

K. Owers, Jan. 2010: updated status and ranks, added pictures

FRASER'S SEDGE  
*Cymophyllus fraserianus*



leaf margin

flower stalk with sheathing bracts

nutlet

male flowers

female flowers

J.C. Putnam dt.



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Inflorescence