

RUSHES, BOG-RUSHES

Juncus spp.

There are over 200 species found world-wide. Gray's Manual lists 56 species found in the northeast United States and Canada. Usually perennial plants, with grasslike or sedgelike appearance and principally found in wet habitats. Often found growing in dense stands. Stems pithy or hollow and normally without branches. Leaves are smooth, narrow and often times round in cross-section and may resemble a stem. Flowers are unimpressive singly but often present in clusters; green, brown or straw-colored.

Used as food by waterfowl and upland gamebirds; attracts marsh and song birds; roots may be eaten by muskrat and moose; submerged stems serve as spawning habitat for sunfish. In addition, *Juncus* spp. may be important nitrogen-fixing plants, supplying this essential nutrient to other plant species.