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Carex riparia

GREATER POND-SEDGE is an evergreen sedge. Native to North Africa, western Asia, and central and southern Europe, it has brownish-green flower spikelets.

It is also known as Great pond sedge, *Hesgen Braff-dywysennog* (Welsh), *Jättestarr* (Swedish), *Ostrica pobřežná* (Slovak), *Ostřice pobřežní* (Czech), Pond sedge, and *Ufer-Segge* (German).

The flowers are pollinated by the wind.

Riparia is derived from Latin *ripa* (riverbank) meaning ‘of or from riverbanks’.

Locally greater pond-sedge can be grown as a grazing crop. Cattle are let loose on the young leaves which are then allowed to re-grow for further grazing – a process which can be repeated as many as three times in one season before the plant must be left to mature ie. when the crop would be poisonous for the animals. The mature crop is then scythed and left on the ground so that the fruit can drop – after which it provides straw for the cattle stalls.