



## Greater Pond-sedge ( *Carex riparia* )



### Biodiversity Action Plan | Cummey Yannoo Beiyen-Feie

#### Background

Greater Pond-sedge is a wetland plant with limited distribution on the Island.

This Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) has been reformatted from a Rare Species Action Plan, produced by Wildflowers of Mann in 2004, and approved by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry in the same year.

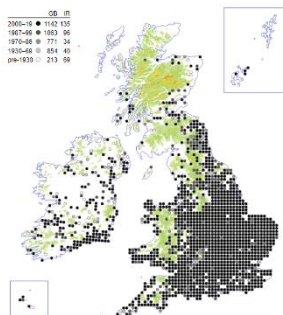
#### Description



Greater Pond-sedge is a large, emergent, aquatic plant.

Picture: Herts and Middlesex WT

#### British Isles Distribution

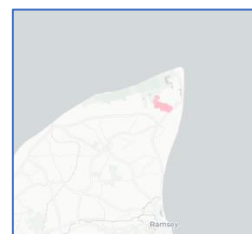


Common in England. Occasional in Ireland, Wales and southeast Scotland, it is rare in north and west Scotland.

#### Isle of Man Distribution

This species is restricted, as a native, to Lough Cranstal in Bride. While much of the site is inaccessible, it is still known to occur in the main ditch, and in the wetter willow carrs adjacent to the ditch. In light shade, the species grows well. However, it rarely forms dominant stands, like it does in the main ditch. It is present on land owned by Manx Wildlife Trust.

It is sometimes planted in ornamental ponds. It has been widely planted (from nursery stock) at Sunset Lakes (near Peel) as a marginal for fishponds.



#### Habitat and Ecology

This is a mesotrophic wetland species of wet woodlands, fens and watersides. It is a creeping species, sometimes making large thick 1.5m tall stands in more fertile situations. In lower fertility situations, it is shorter and grows less dominantly, allowing for greater floral diversity.



While mostly spreading via vegetative means, it sets plentiful fertile seed and occasionally colonises new areas this way, particularly along water courses.

The density of Greater Pond-sedge populations, make it ideal cover for wildlife adjacent to open water.

Its vigour and arching flowering stems, make the species a popular aquatic garden plant, especially for larger gardens.

### Legal protection

Not listed on Schedule 7 of the Wildlife Act 1990 and red-listed under *Plants of Conservation Concern in the Isle of Man 2022*.

### Threats

Most of Lough Cranstal is not a protected area (though a small part forms a Manx Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve). Thus, there is risk of agricultural drainage etc.

Lough Cranstal is only 5 m above sea-level and thus has a (very) long-term risk of salination and inundation with sea-level rise.

The area has gradually converted to shallow open water, to swamp, and now to dense willow carr (curragh) woodland. This will lead to drying out of the site and gradual diminishing amount of optimal habitat.

As the species is restricted to a single site, it is vulnerable to stochastic extinction events.

### Reason for BAP

While the species is in good shape at Lough Cranstal, it is still a single site, so there remains inherent vulnerability to Island loss.

### Aims

In the 2020 MWT Billown Nature Reserve management plan, Greater Pond-sedge was identified as a potential native species that would enhance the pool edge, and act as a block to ongoing expansion of *Typha*.

Grey Club-rush and Common Club-rush (the other two identified species) are now successfully established. The addition of Greater Pond-sedge would add resilience to a species-rich marginal vegetation. It remains unknown if the nearly 2m seasonal drawdown range, will be too much variation for this species to cope with. The only way to find out will be to try it.

### Linked BAPS

Greater Spearwort.

### Delivery Options

#### Active

#### Challenges

Introduction to MWT Billown Nature Reserve main pool.

Yes

Large, seasonal water-table variations. Site grazing.

Search for alternative secondary site if MWT Billown Nature Reserve option fails.

No

Number of suitable base-rich open water sites will be limited.



| Delivery Plan                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                        |                     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Strategy                                                                                                                                                              | Lead                                                                                                                                                   |                     |
| Collect plant material from MWT Lough Cranstal Nature Reserve and establish in cultivation, before planting in the lower drawdown zone at MWT Billown Nature Reserve. | Manx Wildlife Trust                                                                                                                                    |                     |
| Action                                                                                                                                                                | Timing                                                                                                                                                 | Responsibility      |
| Collect root cutting from MWT Lough Cranstal Nature Reserve.                                                                                                          | 2023                                                                                                                                                   | Manx Wildlife Trust |
| Maintain ex-situ population.                                                                                                                                          | 2023-2026                                                                                                                                              | Manx Wildlife Trust |
| Introduce 3 plants to MWT Lough Cranstal Nature Reserve, in accordance with management plan.                                                                          | 2023-4                                                                                                                                                 | Manx Wildlife Trust |
| Replace plants as necessary, adjusting to suit drawdown position.                                                                                                     | 2024-25                                                                                                                                                | Manx Wildlife Trust |
| Assess and review plan.                                                                                                                                               | 2027                                                                                                                                                   | Manx Wildlife Trust |
| Annual Updates                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                        |                     |
| Year                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                        |                     |
| 2023                                                                                                                                                                  | Root cuttings collected from MWT Lough Cranstal Nature Reserve, with some directly planted at MWT Billown Nature Reserve and some held in cultivation. |                     |

