

Creeping Spike Rush

Juncus palustris

-Creeping Spike Rush is an anchor of the shoreland community. The stems are spaced far enough apart for ducks and fish to navigate through a stand, but close enough to offer camouflage and dampen the force of waves.

-The rhizomes (underground stems) of Creeping Spike Rush can be a high-energy food for ducklings.

-The nutlets of Creeping Spike Rush are consumed by a variety of waterfowl and shoreland mammals.

-Extensive beds help anchor sediment, buffer wave action, and provide cover.

-Are you loony about loons? Plant some Creeping Spike Rush, Needle Spike Rush, Brown Fruited Rush, Soft Rush, Water Horsetail, Tussock's Sedge, and/or Sweet Gale for loon nesting habitat.

-The Common Loon is such an old species evolutionarily that it cannot walk. That is correct, it cannot walk. So it needs to lay its eggs directly where the water meets the land. So what the loon does is a kind of push her body onto the land and scrap out a nest with her belly. But the loon nest needs some cover from predators and plants such as rushes in front of the nest to act as shock absorbers to waves to keep its eggs from washing into the lake from waves produced by jet skis and high powered motor boats.

