

Three-way Sedge

Dulichium arundianceum

-Three-way Sedge is a very important plant for those property owners who care about the welfare of the Common Loon. Since the legs on the Common Loon are too far back on its body, it cannot walk. Therefore to make a nest for its eggs, it has to have an area that it can scoot up onto. Three-way Sedge is a wonderful plant for loons to make a nest in.

When you look straight down at Three-way Sedge, you will see that the spiraled leaves form a perfect three-point star.

-Three-way Sedge is eaten occasionally by a variety of ducks and geese. Shoreland mammals also graze on the rhizomes and shoots. The shallow, spreading rhizomes create interlocking stands that are effective in buffering wave action and stabilizing sediment, thereby lessening soil erosion.

-If you look closely, you'll notice that the leaves on adjacent stems spiral in different directions. For example, leaves on one stem will spiral clockwise as you move up the stem. On the next stem, leaves will be arranged counter-clockwise.



An old man and a boy walked carefully along the shore. The man pointed out the subtle beauty of the three-way sedge. “When you look straight down at it, you will see that the spiralled leaves form a perfect three-point star,” he explained.

-Susan Borman, Robert Korth, & Jo Temte