

Both Photos: Layne Knoche, illiinoisgroundwork.org

Copper Shouldered Oval Sedge

Carex bicknellii

Light: Full, Partial

Soil: Clay, Loam, Sand

Moisture: Medium, Moist

Benefits: Deer Resistant

Height: 1-3'

Blooms: Jun, Jul

Zones: 4, 5, 6, 7

Color: Green

Spacing: 18"

Root: Fibrous

Copper Shouldered Oval Sedge, aka Bicknell's Sedge, aka Prairie Sedge, is a problem solver. Thanks to its dense roots, it holds soil in place, preventing erosion. It likes full sun and tolerates drier conditions than many sedges, so is recommended as a groundcover on sunny banks. You can add a pop of color by interplanting it with purple coneflower or other forbs, if you like. Works great in rain gardens too, or use it to suppress weeds among your flowers. Word is it does flop, but if you cut it back to about 8 inches, it will regrow.