

## Key to *Juncus* in Mississippi Coastal Counties

Robert H. Mohlenbrock, Ph.D., Biotic Consultants, Inc.

1.Flowers lateral.

2.Stems ending in a needle-like point; plants of brackish or salt water.....*J. roemerianus*

2.Stems ending in a soft point; plants of fresh water.

3.Leaves 1-3 on each stem.....*J. coriaceus*

3.Leaves absent.

4.Stems hollow, more than 2 mm in diameter.....*J. effusus*

4.Stems not hollow, 1-2 mm in diameter.....*J. gymnocarpus*

1.Flowers terminal.

5.Plants less than 10 cm tall.

6.Annuals; plants in tufts.....*J. bufonius*

6.Perennials; plants creeping, sometimes in standing water.....*J. repens*

5.Plants more than 10 cm tall.

7.Leaves flat, not septate.

8.Leaves 2-4 mm wide.....*J. marginatus*

8.Leaves about 1 mm wide.

9.Flowers borne on only one side of branchlets.....*J. secundus*

9.Flowers borne all around the branchlets.

10.Auricle of leaf sheath absent or nearly so.....*J. dichotomus*

10.Auricle of leaf sheath 2-6 mm long.

11.Plants up to 30 cm tall.....*J. tenuis*

11.Plants more than 30 cm tall.....*J. anthelatus*

7.Leaves terete, septate or, if flattened, then septate.

12.Leaves flattened but septate.

13.Base of plant red-purple.....*J. polycephalus*

13. Base of plant green.....*J. validus*

12. Leaves terete and septate.
14. Flowers in half-round or round heads.
15. Heads half-round.
16. Capsules dark brown, 3.5-4.5 mm long; seeds 1-2 mm long, caudate; cataphylls stramineous, rounded at the tip.....*J. canadensis*
16. Capsules tan, 2.5-3.5 mm long; seeds 0.3-0.4 mm long, not caudate; cataphylls gray, pointed at the tip.....*J. acuminatus*
15. Heads round.
17. Base of plant red-purple or maroon.....*J. megacarpus*
17. Base of plant green.
18. Stems 3-4 mm in diameter; heads 10-15 mm in diameter..... *J. torreyi*
18. Stems 1-3 mm in diameter; heads up to 10 mm in diameter.
19. Heads up to 10; capsules longer than petals, 3-4 mm long...*J. scirpoides*
19. Heads 10-30; capsules shorter than petals, 1.8-2.7 long...*J. brachycarpus*
14. Flowers neither in half-round or round heads.
20. Capsules at least twice as long as the petals.....*J. diffusissimus*
20. Capsules barely longer than the petals.
21. Stems 3-6 mm in diameter, stout.
22. Individual heads 4-8 mm across; capsules 4.5-5.3 mm long; seeds 1.6-2.8 mm long.....*J. trigonocarpus*
22. Individual heads 0.3-0.5 mm across; capsules 2.0-2.5 mm long; seeds 0.5-0.6 mm long.....*J. nodatus*
21. Stems 1-3 mm in diameter, slender.
23. Heads up to 40 (-50) per panicle, each head 2-5 mm across; capsules stramineous, lanceoloid, 2.8-4.0 mm long.....*J. debilis*
23. Heads 50 or more per panicle, each head 0.3-0.5 mm across; capsules chestnut-brown, ovoid, 2.5-3.0 mm long.....*J. elliotii*