

Key to *Eleocharis* spp. of Coastal Mississippi

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| 1. Stems 4-sided. | <i>E. quadrangulata</i> |
| 1. Stems 3-sided or terete. | 2. |
| 2. Stems septate. | 3. |
| 3. Septations at equal distances apart. | <i>E. equisetoides</i> |
| 3. Septations closer together near tip of stem. | <i>E. interstincta</i> |
| 2. Stems not septate. | 4. |
| 4. Stems conspicuously twisted. | <i>E. tortilis</i> |
| 4. Stems not twisted. | 5. |
| 5. Stems \leq 15 cm tall. | 6. |
| 6. Stems threadlike. | 7. |
| 7. Stems matted. | <i>E. acicularis</i> |
| 7. Stems upright. | <i>E. intermedia</i> |
| 6. Stems not threadlike, about 1 mm in diameter | 8. |
| 8. Stems soft, rather spongy. | <i>E. parvula</i> |
| 8. Stems upright. | <i>E. albida</i> |
| 5. Stems $>$ 15 cm tall. | 9. |
| 9. Most or all stems 15-30 cm tall. | 10. |
| 10. Plants in tufts; stems usually 1-2 mm in diameter. | 11. |
| 11. Spikelets rounded at tips. | <i>E. obtusa</i> |
| 11. Spikelets pointed at tips. | <i>E. ovata</i> |
| 10. Plants not tufted; stems usually \leq 1 mm wide. | 12. |
| 12. Stems mat-forming, threadlike. | <i>E. baldwinii</i> |
| 12. Stems upright, not threadlike. | 13. |
| 13. Stems soft and spongy. | <i>E. flavescens</i> |
| 13. Stems firm. | 14. |
| 14. Stems reddish at base. | <i>E. erythropoda</i> |
| 14. Stems green at base. | <i>E. geniculata</i> |
| 9. Most or all stems $>$ 30 cm tall. | 15. |
| 15. Stems 30-60 cm tall. | 16. |
| 16. Stems stiff. | <i>E. tuberculosa</i> |
| 16. Stems not stiff. | 17. |
| 17. Stems reddish at base. | <i>E. fallax</i> |
| 17. Stems green at base. | <i>E. montevidensis</i> |
| 15. Stems $>$ 60 cm tall. | 18. |
| 18. Stems reddish at base. | <i>E. montana</i> |
| 18. Stems green at base. | <i>E. cellulosa</i> |