

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program

Isle Royale National Park

Calamagrostis canadensis Eastern Herbaceous Vegetation [Provisional]

COMMON NAME	Canada Bluejoint Eastern Herbaceous Vegetation
SYNONYM	Bluejoint Eastern Meadow
PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS	Herbaceous Vegetation (V)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS	Perennial graminoid vegetation (V.A)
PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP	Temperate or subpolar grassland (V.A.5)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP	Natural/Semi-natural (V.A.5.N)
FORMATION	Seasonally flooded temperate or subpolar grassland (V.A.5.N.k)
ALLIANCE	CALAMAGROSTIS CANADENSIS SEASONALLY FLOODED HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 2

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM PALUSTRINE

RANGE

Isle Royale National Park

This community is uncommon and widely scattered throughout the park.

Globally

This association is widespread in the Northeast, mid-Atlantic, and northern Midwest regions of the United States. It also can be found in Ontario.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

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This community occupies wet depressions or alluvial flats at elevations of 605 to 820 feet. Slopes vary from flat to gentle. Soils are usually very poorly drained peats or mucks that are saturated to seasonally flooded.

Globally

Stands occur on the floodplains of small streams, in poorly drained depressions, beaver meadows, and lakeshores. Soils are typically mineral soil or well-decomposed peat, with a thick root mat (Harris *et al.* 1996). In northern Minnesota, the water regime varies between temporarily and seasonally flooded (M. Smith personal communication 1999).

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Isle Royale National Park

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Short shrub	<i>Alnus incana</i>
Graminoid	<i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i> , <i>Scirpus cyperinus</i> , <i>Carex rostrata</i>
Nonvascular	<i>Sphagnum</i> spp.

Globally

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Short shrub	<i>Alnus incana</i>
Graminoid	<i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i> , <i>Scirpus cyperinus</i> , <i>Carex rostrata</i> , <i>Carex stricta</i>
Forb	<i>Eupatorium maculatum</i>

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

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Calamagrostis canadensis

Globally

Calamagrostis canadensis, *Scirpus cyperinus*, *Carex rostrata*, *Carex stricta*, *Eupatorium maculatum*

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

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Canada Bluejoint Eastern Meadow is a wetland dominated by grasses. *Calamagrostis canadensis* is the most abundant herb (average 43% cover); other common herbs are *Scirpus cyperinus* (average 25% cover), *Carex rostrata* (average 15% cover), *Carex lasiocarpa* (average 7% cover), *Campanula aparinoides*, and *Viola blanda*. The most abundant shrub is *Alnus incana* (average 9% cover). The most abundant mosses are *Sphagnum* spp. (average 6% cover).

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Globally

Graminoid cover is typically dense, and can form hummocky microtopography. *Calamagrostis canadensis* dominates, often in almost pure stands or with tall sedges, such as *Carex aquatilis*, *Carex lacustris*, *Carex rostrata*, and *Carex stricta*. In fen transitions, *Carex lasiocarpa* can be present. *Glyceria grandis*, *Poa palustris*, *Scirpus cyperinus*, and *Typha latifolia* are sometimes abundant. Forbs include *Campanula aparinoides*, *Epilobium leptophyllum*, *Eupatorium maculatum*, *Iris versicolor*, *Polygonum amphibium*, and *Potentilla palustris* (Harris *et al.* 1996).

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES

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Information not available.

CONSERVATION RANK G?.

DATABASE CODE CEGL005174

MAP UNITS 40

COMMENTS

Globally

In northern Minnesota, this type commonly occurs in beaver meadows. Constant beaver activity can alter local hydrology and, over time, cause this community to grade into other communities (M. Smith personal communication 1999).

REFERENCES

Harris, A. G., S. C. McMurray, P. W. C. Uhlig, J. K. Jeglum, R. F. Foster, and G. D. Racey. 1996. Field guide to the wetland ecosystem classification for northwestern Ontario. Ont. Minist. Nat. Resour., Northwest Sci. Tech. Field Guide FG-01. Thunder Bay, Ont. 74 p.