

Juncus | *Juncus* spp.



Juncus stem with small, dry, brown flower clusters.



Juncus roemerianus growing along a tidal area.



Juncus with drying, browned flowers along a pond edge.

Rushes of the genus *Juncus* are flowering plants that grow along the margins of many slow-moving water bodies. They are commonly confused with grasses or sedges.

Juncus is characterized by round, hollow, and pointed stems with leaves that form a sheath around the stem. Stems grow in groups and create dense clumps of foliage.

The flowers are small and usually brown. Many seeds form in a pod on the flower structure and are dry.

The flower is terminal but **often appears on the side** of the stem because the subtending bract extends farther than the flower. This appearance of being on the side and the round, hollow stems make *Juncus* easy to identify.

Management Value

The seeds of *Juncus* are consumed by songbirds, waterfowl, muskrats, rabbits, and quail. Many species use rushes for nesting and concealment habitat. Rushes rarely take over a pond but can interfere with shoreline access. This species can be planted or encouraged to diversify habitat and provide a more natural aquascape. Containment can be easily achieved by limiting shallow water and moist soil areas and with spot-spraying herbicides.

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Recommended Controls

Option 1: 2,4-D (3.8-pound formulation). For each gallon of water, mix 0.6 ounce 2,4-D and 1.3 ounces non-ionic surfactant. Spray to wet all exposed leaves. Do not exceed annual herbicide rate limits as stated on the product label.

Multiple applications are likely necessary to achieve eradication.

■ **Read and follow all chemical label instructions, especially the section on the use of personal protection equipment.**

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