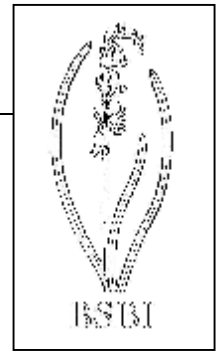


Plant Crib



ERIOPHORUM

The main problems usually encountered are in distinguishing *E. latifolium* or *E. gracile* from *E. angustifolium*. The following Table and illustrations should help.

	<i>E. vaginatum</i>	<i>E. angustifolium</i>	<i>E. latifolium</i>	<i>E. gracile</i>
Growth form	Dense tussocks	Rhizomatous	Laxly caespitose	Rhizomatous
No. of heads	1	1 to 7	2 to 12	3 to 6
Leaf shape	1-2 mm wide, trigonous	3-5 mm wide, canaliculate	3-8 mm wide, flat	1-2 mm wide, 3-angled
Peduncle	Smooth	Smooth	Scabrid	Scabrid
Pappus hairs	Simple	Simple	Forked at ends	Simple

Typical habitats which may help pick out *E. latifolium* and *E. gracile* are as follows:

Eriophorum vaginatum L.: On acidic peat in bogs and mires, rarely wet heathland.

Eriophorum angustifolium Honck.: Widespread in bogs, fens, dune slacks, etc., usually on peaty soils on pools.

Eriophorum latifolium Hoppe: Fens, calcareous flushes, bare stony non-calcareous flushes, dune slacks, often on firm ground.

Eriophorum gracile W. D. J. Koch ex Roth: Very wet poor fen communities in swampy conditions of medium pH.

References Byfield, A. (1991). *British Wildlife* 3: 37-40.

Conaghan, J. P. (1995). The ecology of *Eriophorum gracile* and *E. latifolium* in Ireland. PhD thesis, University College, Galway.

Authors J. P. Conaghan, C. Dalby, M. Sheehy Skeffington & T. C. G. Rich, January 1998.

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Eriophorum angustifolium (a) stem (ˆ 5), (b) cotton tip (ˆ 50), (c) glume (ˆ 3), (d) peduncle (ˆ 10), (e) upper leaf tip (ˆ 2), (f) upper leaf sheath and sheath ligule (ˆ 2), (g) habit (ˆ 0.1). *E. latifolium* (h) cotton tip (ˆ 50), (i) glume (ˆ 3), (j) peduncle (ˆ 15), (k) upper leaf tip (ˆ 2), (l) upper leaf (ˆ 2), (m) stem (ˆ 5), (n) habit (ˆ 0.1). *E. vaginatum* (o) glume (ˆ 3), (p) leaf section (ˆ 5), (q) habit (ˆ 0.1). *E. gracile*, (r) glume (ˆ 3), (s) peduncle (ˆ 15), (t) stem (ˆ 5), (u) habit (ˆ 0.1). Illustrations © C. Dalby, reproduced with permission from *British Wildlife*.

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