

Eriophorum angustifolium Honck.

Common Cottongrass

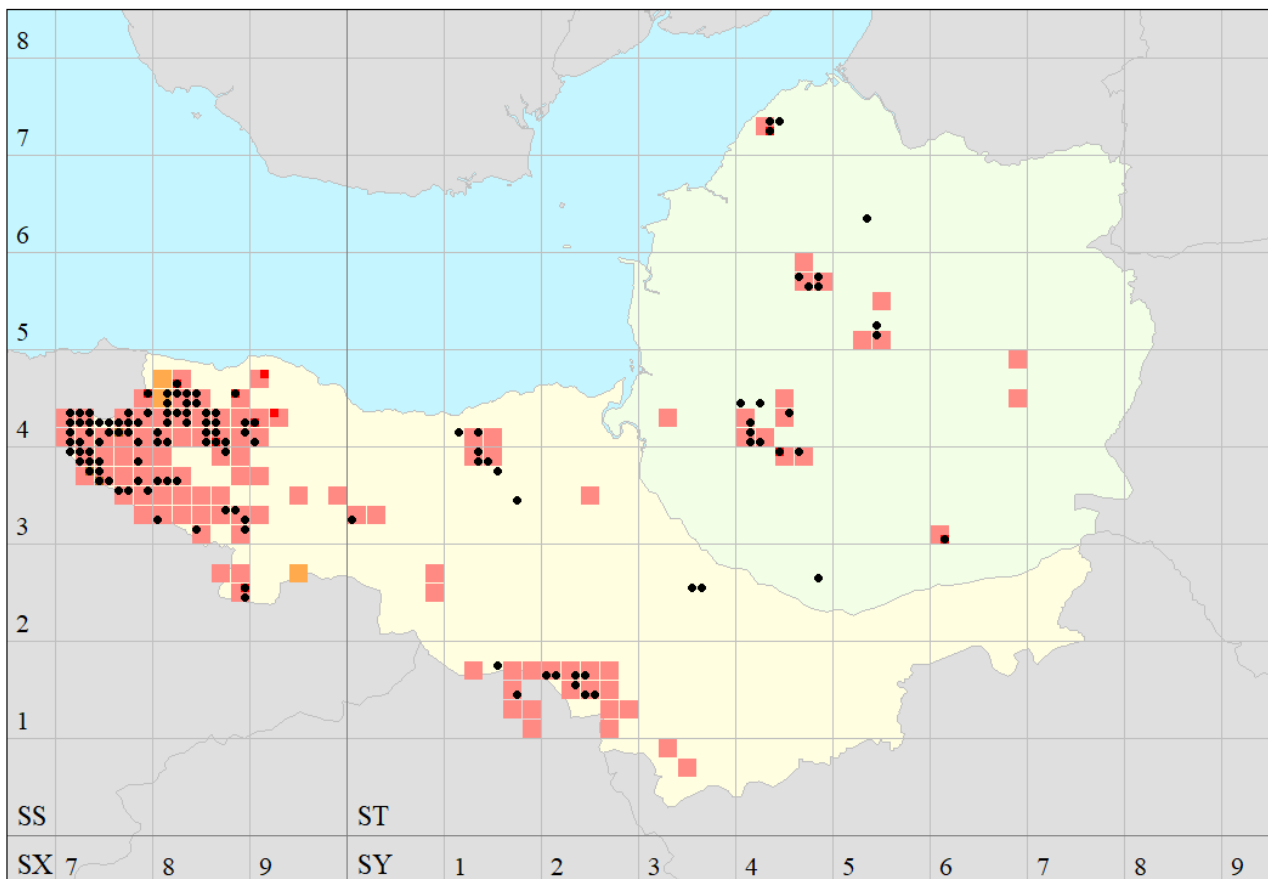
Native

GB: Least Concern

England: Vulnerable

VC5 Not Scarce; VC6 Not Scarce

A rhizomatous perennial of wet, usually acid bogs, flushes, heaths and marshy meadows. In VC5 found on Exmoor and the Brendons, the Quantocks, the Blackdowns and at West Sedgemoor on the Levels. In VC6 still to be found on the peat moors, the Gordano Valley, Black Down, Priddy Mineries and in damp areas of three post-industrial sites: the Redding Pits (disused red ochre quarry), a disused lime quarry and Carymoor Environmental Centre, once the site of Dimmer Tip. Murray (1896) included records for Pen Selwood, Shipham, Yatton, East Harptree, Pensford, Claverton Wood and Downhead Common, whilst White (1912) added records for Litton, The Watchetts near Wells and a wet hollow among sand-hills on the coast near Berrow, but it is no longer to be found at any of these former sites. In Somerset, as in other lowland counties, *Eriophorum angustifolium* has been lost from many locations. Drainage, groundwater extraction and lack of grazing are likely causes of the decline of this species.



Distribution of *Eriophorum angustifolium* in Somerset, mapped using MapMate.
Black dots are post-2000 records; red squares are 1987-1999 records;
sepia squares are pre-1987 records