

SALTMARSH CORDGRASS

Spartina alterniflora

Located in saline shores and marshes along the coast throughout the Division. Also known as Saltwater and Smooth Cordgrass.

Stems are 0.1 to 2.5 m high; arising from a long, interconnected root system. Leaves are flat when fresh and curl as they dry; present to the top of the stem; 0.4 to 1.5 cm wide; smooth and leathery. Flower spikes 2 to 15 cm long; flowers bloom from July through September.

Tall and short varieties are common. Pure stands cover much of the east coast. Seeds used as food by ducks, marsh, shore and song birds; rootstalk important to geese and muskrat; plant browsed on by deer; major source of detritus for the estuarine foodweb; important plant for controlling erosion and storm damage as well as for purifying water.





RC

Notes