

## SALTMEADOW CORDGRASS

*Spartina patens*

Located in salt and brackish coastal marshes throughout the Division. Also known as Saltmeadow Hay.

A perennial grass with smooth stems; 15-80 cm long. Spring stems arising from the mat of last years vegetation. Two to 5 (normally 4) new, green leaves in spring; 0.5 to 2.0 mm wide tapering to slender tips. One to 4 spikes on the flowering stems; purplish; 1.0 to 6.0 cm long.

Often found in dense stands in the zone from mean high water to the level of spring tides (shoreward of *S. alterniflora*). Landward extent often indicates the beginning of the transition zone.



Important, but provides less detritus than *S. alterniflora* since it is flooded less often. Important as food to black ducks, geese and seaside and sharptailed sparrows; also used as food by other ducks, shore and marsh birds; roots and plant eaten by muskrat and deer; important plant for controlling erosion and storm damage.



Notes