



SALTGRASS
Distichlis spicata

Located in coastal salt meadows and inland alkaline soils throughout the Division. Also known as Spike-Grass and Alkali Grass.

A pale or whitish green grass with rigid stems; 0.1 to 1 m high. Leaves with smooth margins and bluntish tips; to 15 cm long; the sheathes at the base of the leaves may be overlapping. Male and female spike-like flowers differ; male flowers soft and with a continuous axis and more spikelets than the female flowers, which are harder and jointed; flowers to 8 cm long; blooming from August through October.

Often associated with *S. patens*, forming low, dense stands of vegetation which provide nesting habitat for shoveller, cinnamon teal and other waterfowl. Seeds, young plants and roots used as food by ducks, geese, marsh and shore birds, small mammals and deer; serves as a detritus source in conjunction with *S. patens*.



Notes