

Cordgrasses

(*Spartina*) - [All Species]



Habitat: Aquatic, Salt Marshes & Mud-flats
Family name: Poaceae

species: -

- Spartina alterniflora Loisel – Smooth cordgrass
- Spartina anglica – Common cordgrass
- Spartina arundinacea - Tristan da Cunha
- Spartina bakeri Merr. – Sand cordgrass
- Spartina × caespitosa – Short cordgrass
- Spartina cynosuroides – Big cordgrass
- Spartina densiflora – Denseflower cordgrass
- Spartina foliosa Trin. – California cordgrass
- Spartina gracilis Trin. – Alkali cordgrass
- Spartina maritima – Small cordgrass
- Spartina patens – Saltmeadow cordgrass
- Spartina pectinata – Prairie cordgrass
- Spartina spartinae – Gulf cordgrass
- Spartina × townsendii – Townsend's cordgrass
- Spartina versicolor Fabre - Mediterranean, Azores



Description:

Cordgrasses form large, often dense colonies, particularly on coastal salt marshes, and grow quickly. The species vary in size from 0.3–2 m tall.

Many of the species will produce hybrids if they come into contact with native species.

Cordgrass is an aggressive, aquatic alien that invades mud flats, salt marshes and beaches, out-competing native plants, spreading quickly and leaving large *Spartina* meadows



Flower heads with bunches of 4-5 un-branched spikes, spikelets flowered with conspicuous, feathery anthers. Yellowish-green broad, stiff leaves, in-rolled or flat. Ligule comprised of a ring of hairs. Spreading, creeping growth habit. Height to 130cm.

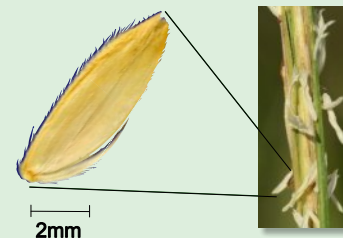


Reproduction: Common cordgrass reproduces via seeds and creeping underground stems (rhizomes).



Delicate looking with tiny feathery pale yellow flowers in 30cm long spikes. Flowers bloom from July to September, the plant growing to about 1.5m high.

The leaves are light green, very tough and narrow.



Initially planted to stabilise coastlines, the rapid colonisation of *Spartina anglica* over extensive flats in sites with large wintering populations of waders and wildfowl is a major concern because of the birds' loss of habitat for feeding and roosting.