

# Spartina patens

Salt Hay  
Saltmeadow Cordgrass

Native to Maine

Coastal  
Saltmarsh

## Leaves



Sandy Richards



Look for leaves that are very narrow and pointed. Blades are 10 to 50 cm long and less than 4 cm wide at the base.

LEAF ARRANGEMENT	LEAF TYPE	LEAF/LEAFLET SHAPE	LEAF/LEAFLET EDGE
 ALTERNATE	 SIMPLE	 PALMATE	 SMOOTH
 OPPOSITE	 COMPOUND-PALMATE	 BLADE	 TOOTHED
 WHORLED	 COMPOUND-PINNATE	 ROUND	 WAVY

## Plant



Sandy Richards



Look for a thin-stemmed grass that creeps along the ground and forms dense stands.

## Stem



Sandy Richards



Look for stems that are thin, stiff, and hollow with 3 to 6 alternately-arranged spikes at the tips of the plants.

## Seasonal Change



Gare and Kitty



In the summer and early fall (June to October) look for small white flowers hanging from the spikes like tiny socks.

## Similar Species

Salt Hay is easily confused with native Smooth Cordgrass. Salt Hay is shorter, grows along the ground, and is less rigid. Salt Hay is less salt-tolerant than Smooth Cordgrass, and is often found in upper marsh zones. Smooth Cordgrass is found in the lower marsh

## Fun Fact

Maine farmers used to harvest Salt Hay each year to feed their livestock. *Spartina patens* is native to Maine, but invasive to states on the west coast like Washington, Oregon, and California.

Researched and created by: Brendan O'Keefe

Help us improve this species card! Contact us with your updates.