

Salicornia depressa

Pickleweed,
Sea Pickle

Native to Maine

Coastal
Saltmarsh

Leaves



Garrett and Kitty Wilkin, www.flickr.com



Look for waxy leaves that look like scales and wrap around the stem. The leaves hug the stem so tightly that it is often hard to tell the leaf and stem apart.



Garrett and Kitty Wilkin, www.flickr.com



Plant



Eva Ekeblad, www.flickr.com



Look for a small plant (up to 25 to 40 cm tall) with pencil-thick stems that feel fleshy.

Stem



Eosclub, www.flickr.com



Look for stems that are soft and as thick as pencils. Small waxy leaves wrap around the stem and make the plant look like it has joints.

Seasonal Change



Eva Ekeblad, www.flickr.com



From May to August look for a green plant. As the weather cools it will turn yellow, then orange, then red!

www.vitalsignsme.org

Similar Species

Pickleweed can often be found near Cordgrass and Salt Hay at the edge of the saltmarsh. Pickleweed is shorter and thicker than these tall thin grasses. It also has branches with rounded tips. The grasses have pointed tips.

Fun Fact

Pickleweed has stems that are very flexible and can absorb a lot of water. This allows them to live in areas with strong currents and lots of salt. Also known as the Sea Pickle, it has been used as a food source throughout history. People enjoy its salty flavor!