

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.

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