



Spartina patens

Saltmeadow cordgrass, Saltmeadow Hay, Marsh Grass

Threat scores

1. Ecological impact
 - “Since its introduction to Cox Island, it has expanded exponentially, with new outlying patches appearing in native vegetation. Accretion coupled with expansion may rconvert low marsh to monotypic higher-elevation marsh. Seedlings easily overlooked and pose additional problems for eradication” (Molnar 2008).
 - Threatens rare plant species.
2. Invasive potential
 - “Dispersed by seed. Presence of barren or disturbed areas near established colonies also facilitate invasion. Radial expansion of cordgrass colonies is clonal” (Molnar 2008).
3. Geographic extent
 - Locally pervasive
4. Management difficulty
 - “Unfortunately, effective means for complete eradication of this species have yet to be discovered. Physical, chemical controls used for small infestations” (Molnar 2008).



Geography and Habitat

1. Origin: Occurs along the Atlantic coast from Canada to the Caribbean and Central America (Molnar 2008).
2. “It is not known how *Spartina patens* was introduced to Washington. However, the species may have been brought in through oyster culture” (Molnar 2008).
3. Intertidal zones, wetlands, brackish water, range/grasslands, coastland
4. Near the center of its native distribution, *Spartina patens* dominates the upper salt marsh zone and also colonizes sand dunes, swale grasslands, sand flats, and coastal scrublands (Molnar 2008).
5. Hydrohalophyte, occurs in brackish to saline marshes, creek banks, flats, shores, sand dunes
6. Tolerates full strength sea water (35,000 ppm) and some up to 75 dS/m

Invasion Pathways

1. Stocking in Open Water
 - Accidental possible
 - Cause- oyster farming
 - It may have been introduced as packing material in association with unofficial plantings of eastern oysters (*Crassostrea virginica*) in Oregon and Washington (Molnar 2008).
2. Seaweed
 - Accidental possible
 - Cause- oyster packing material
 - It may have been introduced as packing material in association with unofficial plantings of eastern oysters (*Crassostrea virginica*) in Oregon and Washington (Molnar 2008).

3. Natural Spread

- Known
- Cause- range expansion
- Since its introduction to Cox Island, salt-meadow cordgrass has expanded exponentially, with new out-lying patches appearing in native vegetation (Molnar 2008).

Non native locations

1. 56- Puget Trough/ Georgia Basin
2. 57- OR, WA, Vancouver Coast and Shelf

Sources

1. Molnar, Jennifer, et al. 2008. "Assessing the global threat of invasive species to marine biodiversity." *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*. 6 (9), pp. 485-492.
2. <http://conserveonline.org/workspaces/global.invasive.assessment>
3. http://plants.usda.gov/java/profile?symbol=SPPA&mapType=nativity&photoID=sppa_003_avp.tif
4. <http://www.ussl.ars.usda.gov/pls/caliche/halophyte.query>
5. http://www.nwcb.wa.gov/weed_info/Written_findings/Spartina_patens.html
6. <http://nas.er.usgs.gov/queries/FactSheet.aspx?speciesID=1128>