

## Marshhay cordgrass: *Spartina patens*



Marshhay cordgrass, also known as Wiregrass and Salt marsh hay, among other common names, is a species of cordgrass native to the Atlantic Coast of the Americas. It is found in marshlands in other areas of the world as an introduced species and often as a harmful invading weed. In Louisiana, it is the dominant species of the coastal marshes. Marshhay grows in many types of marshes, but best in intermediate and brackish ones. It is important to the aquatic food chain, as a shoreline stabilizer and as a pollution filter.



## Smooth cordgrass: *Spartina alterniflora*

Smooth cordgrass is more salt-tolerant and flood tolerant than *Spartina patens*. As the dominant emergent grass species found growing along tidal salt marshes of the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, it is utilized extensively for erosion control along shorelines, canal banks, levees and other areas of soil water interface. It will also tolerate petroleum contaminated soils.

