

PROTECT VITAL HABITAT



Almost a thousand acres are farmed for oysters and clams in Grays Harbor.

Hundreds of thousands of shorebirds concentrate on the muddy tideflats of Grays Harbor. Grays Harbor Estuary is one of four major staging areas for shorebirds in North America and one of the largest concentrations of shorebirds on the west coast, south of Alaska.



Don't let Spartina wreck our tide flats!

Web links:

<http://www.agr.wa.gov/PlantsInsects/Weeds/Spartina/default.htm>

<http://graysharbor.wsu.edu/Weeds>

<http://www.nwcb.wa.gov/>

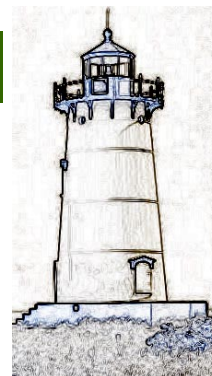
<http://www.pugetsound.org/index/spartina>



GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY NOXIOUS WEED BOARD

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GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY
NOXIOUS WEED BOARD

SPARTINA ALTERNIFLORA FIELD GUIDE

PROTECTING
GRAYS HARBOR'S
NATURAL
RESOURCES



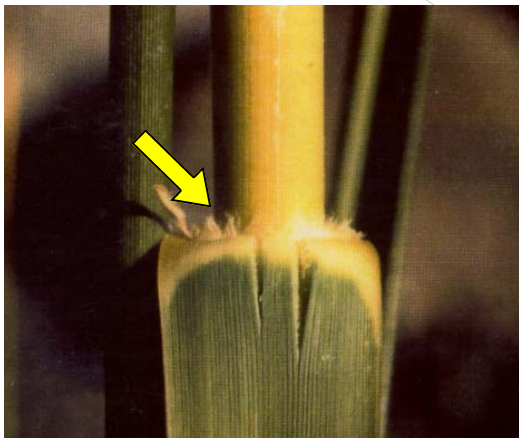
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SPARTINA IDENTIFICATION

Spartina alterniflora is a salt tolerant perennial grass that grows in erect dense stands in lower tidal marshes. It had been introduced from the east coast of the United States in the late 1800s. It invades mudflats clogging flood control channels and seriously impacting habitat for shorebirds, shellfish, and other mudflat dwellers.

In Grays Harbor you might expect to see *Spartina alterniflora* as a solitary, circular colony adjacent to the shoreline or even some distance from shore on the mudflat. *Spartina* also likes to colonize the edges of channels in saltmarshes and is usually much taller and robust looking than the native marsh plants.

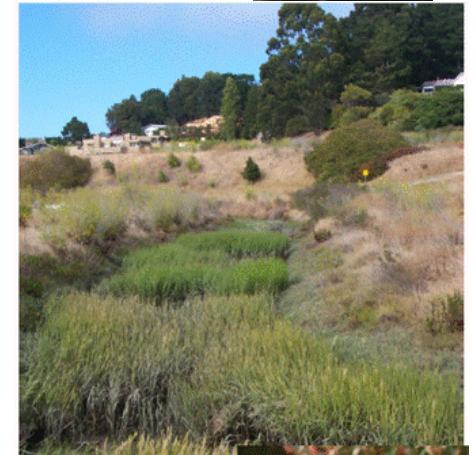
Hairy ligule of *Spartina alterniflora*



ALL GRASSES ARE NOT CREATED EQUAL

Spartina alterniflora is also known as Smooth Cord Grass. Stems are 3 to 5 feet tall and are smooth, leaf blades are up to 2 feet tall and 5/8 of an inch wide, becoming folded at the tip.

Spartina dominates tidal marshes, and collects sediment, resulting in round elevated stands. Stems are hollow, except at the segments, and it appears to be more yellow green than other native plants. Flowers occur only on branch undersides, often twisting.



Report sightings to:

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Agriculture—Spartina Program**

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