

Plant List for Salt Water

Last Edit: 2 February 2019

Contributors/Sources: Marin chapter California Native Plant Society; Marin Audubon; SPAWN; Friends of Corte Madera Creek Watershed; The Watershed Nursery; NPS Muir Beach Restoration Report; Peter Baye's BCDC Landscape Guide.

Note: The salinity of bay water is less than the ocean water salinity and varies over the seasons. The most extreme environment is on the immediate windswept Pacific coastline and in any spots that dry up in the summer, leaving a saline crust.

Plant name/ frequency of occurrence / salt tolerance level

At Water Level: Toe or Low Water Level

These plants seem to be highly salt tolerant

Bolboschoenus maritimus / Alkali Bulrush

Distichlis spicata / Salt Grass

Extriplex (formerly Atriplex) californica / California Orach [found Pt. Reyes only]

Frankenia salina / Alkali Heath

Grindelia stricta var. *platyphylla* / Coast Gumplant [ocean coast only]

Jaumea carnosa / Jaumea

Juncus balticus / Baltic Rush

Juncus bolanderi / Bolander's Rush. Common, high

Limonium californicum / Salt Marsh Rosemary/Sea Lavender

Plantago maritima / Sea Plantain

Puccinellia nutkaensis / Nootka Alkali Grass [ocean coast only]

Ruppia maritima / Widgeon Grass

Salicornia pacifica / Perennial Pickleweed [bay coast only]

Salicornia depressa / Annual Pickleweed

Schoenoplectus acutus var. *occidentalis* / Common Tule

Schoenoplectus pungens / Bulrush. Common, high

Sesuvium verrucosum / Western Sea-purslane. Uncommon

Spartina foliosa / Pacific Cordgrass. Common, high. Due to the frequent mislabeling of this species, all plants should be reviewed and approved by the Invasive Spartina Project before planting

Triglochin concinna / Seaside Arrow Grass. High

Hard to get/rare:

Atriplex patula / Spear Saltbush

Cordylanthus (now Chloropyron) maritimus ssp. *palustris* / Bird's-Beak. Rare, List 1B status, hard to grow. High salt tolerance

Cordylanthus (now Chloropyron) mollis ssp. *mollis* / Soft Bird's-Beak. Rare status. High

Cressa truxillensis / Alkali Weed. Uncommon but found in Tiburon and Corte Madera; high (difficult to grow in nursery)

Cuscuta salina / Salt Marsh Dodder. High (nice plant but not likely to find for sale)

Glaux maritima / Sea Milkwort. Rare in Marin

On Levee Slope: Mid-bank

Plants that are moderately salt tolerant

Achillea millefolium / Yarrow

Alnus rubra / Red Alder. Common, high; can also be planted very low on bank

Artemisia douglasiana / California Mugwort

Astragalus pycnostachyus var. *pycnostachyus* / Marsh Milkvetch

Atriplex patula / Spear Orache. Uncommon

Baccharis douglasii (*glutinosa*) / Marsh Baccharis

Baccharis pilularis / Coyote Brush (upright form)

Calamagrostis species / Reed Grass

Carex barbarae / Santa Barbara Sedge

Carex obnupta / Slough Sedge. medium (brackish water)

Carex praegracilis / Meadow Sedge. Common, moderate

Ceanothus gloriosus / Point Reyes Ceanothus. Moderate

Elymus triticoides / Creeping Wildrye

Erigeron glaucus / Seaside Daisy. Occasional, moderately high

Euthamia occidentalis / Western Goldenrod

Fragaria chiloensis / Beach Strawberry. Moderate

Grindelia stricta var. *angustifolia* / Pacific Gumplant [Bay coast only]

Helenium bigelovii / Bigelow's Sneezeweed

Hordeum brachyantherum / Meadow Barley

Iva axillaris / Poverty weed (unlikely to find for sale)

Juncus effusus / Soft Rush. Common, moderately high

Juncus lescurii / Leuser's Rush. Occasional, moderately high

Juncus tenuis / Path Rush. Does well in disturbed areas; spreads aggressively and may not be as desirable as other juncus species

Lonicera involucrata / Twinberry. This can be planted fairly low on the bank; common, moderate

Oenanthe sarmentosa / Water Parsley

Persicaria punctata / Water Smartweed/Knotweed

Persicaria lapathifolia / Willow Weed

Phyla nodiflora / Frog Fruit

Polygonum maritimum / Sea Knotgrass

Rosa californica / California Rose

Rubus ursinus / California Blackberry

Salix lasiolepis / Arroyo Willow (var. *bigelovii* – according to Marin Flora this subspecies is the Arroyo willow found in coastal areas) [The marsh/creek-bank species of coastal Arroyo willow has broad leaves, but the varieties are not recognized by Jepson herbarium]

Salix sitchensis / Sitka Willow. Occasional, moderately high

Schoenoplectus acutus var. *acutus* / Hardstem Tule (gets 3-10 ft) more salt tolerant than *S. californicus*

Schoenoplectus californicus / Tule. brackish water tolerant

Spergularia macrotheca / Sand/Sea Spurry (other *Spergularia* spp.?)

Symphotrichum chilensis / California Aster. Moderate

Triglochin maritima / Seaside Arrow Grass. Moderate

Upper Bank/Transition to Upland:

These plants are mildly tolerant of saltwater

Cornus sericea / Red Osier Dogwood
Elymus glaucus / Blue Wildrye
Elymus triticoides / Creeping Wildrye
Heliotropium curassavicum / Seaside Heliotrope. Occasional, moderate
Heracleum maximum / Cow Parsnip
Heteromeles arbutifolia / Toyon
Holodiscus discolor / Oceanspray, Cream Bush
Juncus patens / California Gray Rush
Madia sativa / Coast Tarweed
Myrica (Morella) californica / Wax Myrtle
Oemleria cerasiformis / Indian Plum
Polystichum munitum / Western Swordfern (if there's shade)
Potentilla anserina / Silverweed Cinquefoil
Quercus agrifolia / Coast Live Oak
Quercus lobata / Valley Oak
Ribes sanguineum var. glutinosum / Pink Flowering Currant
Rubus parviflorus / Thimbleberry
Rumex occidentalis / Western Dock
Sambucus racemosa / Red Elderberry
Scirpus microcarpus / Panicked Bulrush
Stachys chamissonis / Coastal Hedgenettle
Stipa pulchra / Purple Needlegrass
Symphoricarpos albus laevigatus / Common Snowberry

Upland/Above the High Tide Line:

All are mildly tolerant of splashes and occasional flood

Achillea millefolium / Yarrow
Aesculus californica / Buckeye
Ambrosia psilostachya / Western Ragweed
Anaphalis margaritacea / Pearly Everlasting
Artemisia californica / California Sagebrush
Deschampsia cespitosa / Tufted Hairgrass
Diplacus aurantiacus / Sticky Monkeyflower
Eriogonum latifolium / Coast Buckwheat
Eriophyllum staechadifolium / Lizard Tail, Seaside Woolly Sunflower
Frangula californica / Coffeeberry
Lonicera hispidula / Pink Honeysuckle
Lupinus sp. / Lupine species
Sambucus nigra ssp. caerulea / Blue Elderberry
Scrophularia californica / Bee Plant
Symphotrichum chilense / Pacific Aster

DO NOT PLANT

Arundo donax / Giant Reed Grass

Atriplex prostrata / Saltbush. Common in Marin, high [non-native]. I would take this out.

Native *A. patula* could be added but since *A. prostrata* is so prevalent and exact distributions of the two species is still not clear it should be left out for the moment. Diana Benner

Batis maritima / Saltwort. Not native to Marin

Carpobrotus spp. / Iceplant

Cortaderia spp. / Pampas Grass

Cotula coronopifolia / Brass Buttons. So. African native, can be invasive

Crypsis schoenoides / Swamp Pricklegrass. Introduced, native to Europe

Echinochloa crusgalli / Cockspur. Native to Eurasia

Equisetum hyemale / Horsetail. Spread aggressively in damp soil

Lampranthus spp. / Iceplant

Lepidium latifolium / Pepperweed. Invasive weed to salt marshes in San Rafael, from Eurasia

Limonium ramosissimum / Algerian Sea Lavender

Limonium Duriusculum / European Sea Lavender

Lythrum salicaria / Purple Loosestrife

Spartina alterniflora x *foliosa* / Smooth Cordgrass. Native to East Coast, invasive here

Spartina angelica / Common Cordgrass

Spartina cynosuroides / Big Cordgrass. Not native to California

Spartina densiflora / Dense-flowered Cordgrass

Spartina patens / Salt Meadow Cordgrass. Not native, only found at South Hampton Marsh in Benicia

Spartina pectinata / Prairie Cordgrass. Not native to California

Typha angustifolia / Narrowleaf cattail. Very invasive

Vinca major or *minor* / Periwinkle

Xanthium strumarium / Common Cocklebur. Native to US, but seed travels everywhere