

Plants Commonly Encountered in Estuarine Wetlands Ver. 1

A Field Guide for Practitioners of the California Rapid Assessment Method for Wetlands and Riparian Areas (CRAM)

This field guide is intended to assist practitioners of CRAM in recognizing and identifying commonly encountered plants found in estuarine wetlands. The plant layer* in which each species is typically found is also noted. Although this guide was developed primarily for the southern California region, many of the species listed are found statewide.

For the purposes of CRAM, a plant “layer” is a stratum of vegetation indicated by a discreet canopy at a specified height that comprises at least 5% of the area of a CRAM assessment area where the layer is expected.



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COASTAL WATER RESEARCH PROJECT
A Public Agency for Environmental Research

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*Sarcocornia pacifica** (common pickleweed)
Commonly: short and medium
* formerly *Salicornia virginica*



Salicornia subterminalis
(pickleweed, glasswort)
Commonly: Short →

← *Salicornia bigelovii*
(pickleweed)
Commonly: Short





← *Batis maritima* *P. Mill.*
(saltwort, beachwort)
Commonly: Short

Jaumea carnosa
(marsh jaumea) →
Commonly: short



Frankenia salina
(alkali heath) →
Commonly: Short



← *Suaeda esteroa*
(sea-bite)
Commonly: Short to medium

Cressa truxillensis
(alkali weed) →
Commonly: Short

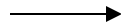


Monanthochloe littoralis
(shoregrass)
Commonly: Short



← *Cuscuta salina*
(dodder)
Commonly: medium

Distichlis spicata
(salt grass)
Commonly: short





← *Limonium californicum*
(marsh rosemary)
Commonly: short to medium



Heliotropium curassavicum
(seaside heliotrope) →
Commonly: short





← *Spartina foliosa*
(cordgrass)
Commonly: tall



← *Juncus acutus*
(spiny rush)
Commonly: tall



← *Atriplex lentiformis*
(Brewers Salt Bush)
Commonly: Tall



← *Pluchea odorata*
(salt marsh fleabane)
Commonly: Tall

Isocoma menziesii
(coastal golden bush) →
Commonly: Tall

