



The two common rushes in the marsh—*Juncus gerardii*, the saltmarsh rush (JUGE) and *Juncus balticus*, the Baltic rush (JUBA) can be most easily distinguished by the position of their seeds on the stem—at the end of the stem in JUGE and sticking out laterally a few inches below the end of the stem/leaf in JUBA. The seeds are also narrower/pointier in JUBA.





**Bentgrasses,**

*Agrostis spp.* AGRO

Relatively long ligule, frayed end

**Saltgrass,**

*Distichlis spicata.* DISP

No obvious ligule or just 'hairs'

**Meadow Barley,**

*Hordeum brachyantherum..* HOBR

No obvious ligule or just a short collar

**These three common grasses can be distinguished by their inflorescences (next page), but in their absence of seed heads, they can be distinguished by their ligules— papery white or translucent membranes that appear when you peel a leaf down away from the stem.**





**Bentgrasses,**  
*Agrostis* spp. AGRO

Leaves are narrow, long and ‘flimsy’



**Saltgrass,**  
*Distichlis spicata*. DISP

Leaves emerge at 60 degree angle from the stem; arranged ~opposite



**Meadow Barley,**  
*Hordeum brachyantherum*. HOBR

Leaves often have a reddish cast or reddish edges/tips

**These three common grasses can be distinguished by their seed heads, but in their absence they can be distinguished by their ligules (previous page) — papery white or translucent membranes that appear when you peel a leaf down away from the stem.**





**Reed canary grass (left), *Agrostis* (right)**

**These two plants were about the same height; RCG much more 'robust'.**



**Meadow Barley,**

***Hordeum brachyantherum*. HOBR**

**Leaves often have a reddish cast or reddish edges/tips**



**Saltgrass,**

***Distichlis spicata*. DISP**

**Leaves emerge at 60 degree angle from the stem; arranged ~opposite**





**Sea Arrowgrass**

*Triglochin maritima* TRMA

**Succulent; tall flower spike; leaves half/crescent moon in cross-section**



**Pickleweed,**

*Salicornia virginica* SAVI

**Succulent; sometimes on 'dead' looking growth from last year**



**Tufted Hairgrass**

*Deschampsia caespitosa*, DECA

**Mounding grass with loose gray seed heads; note ligule where leaf is bent back from the stem on right.**





**ASTE**



**ATPA**  
**(very young)**



**ATPA**  
**(young)**

## **Common Forbs**



**ARAN**



**ATPA**  
**(older)**





LYMA



SPMA



RUME



GRIN

**Less common  
FORBS**





**Saltmarsh bulrush,**  
*Bolboschoenus maritimus*. BOMA



**Lyngbye sedge,**  
*Carex lyngbyei*. CALY

**“Sedges have edges” works for BOMA (left above and in the photo to the left) and CALY (right above and in the photo to the left) which both have sharp blades and stems that are triangular in cross section. CALY has more, narrower blades closer together and without the tri-bladed terminus of BOMA. SCTA (*Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani*) is another sedge that looks like a rush—round in cross section (middle in the photo to the left).**