

Please call 1-866-invader if you suspect you have found this species

Dense-flowered cordgrass
Spartina densiflora

Other common names:

USDA symbol: SPDE2
ODA rating: A and T



Introduction: Dense-flowered cordgrass is native to South America. This species like others was probably introduced for mudflat conversion and stabilization. It is an aggressive grass, salt tolerant and difficult to control. It is somewhat resistant to herbicides and difficult to remove manually.

Distribution in Oregon: Dense-flowered cordgrass has been positively identified in Oregon for the first time in 2013 at Coos Bay.

Description: Dense-flowered cordgrass is a perennial salt-tolerant aquatic grass that grows 1 to 5 feet tall. It has a distinct bunchgrass-like growth form. The leaf (blade) is tough, grayish in color and margins are in-rolled, narrow and long. Blades are at a 15-35 degree angle to the stem. The inflorescences are narrow, dense, and cylindrical with branches erect and overlapping. Unlike other spartina species, dense-flowered cordgrass reproduces only by seeds and thrives very well in rocky substrate.

Impacts: Cordgrasses are mostly salt tolerant, non-native grass species that thrive in the middle tidal zones in estuaries. It is not the primary invader of mudflats like smooth cordgrass, instead, it is well adapted to the lower to middle salt marsh areas where it aggressively out competes native grasses, sedges and *Salicornia* stands. These native plants are important food plants for migratory waterfowl.

Biological controls: Biological control agents are not used on "A" listed weeds in Oregon. It is targeted for eradication or containment.

