



Smooth cordgrass

(*Spartina alterniflora*)

Originated in the United States and Canada.
Introduced into France in the 1800s, probably via maritime transport and ballast water.

Description

- A perennial grass, smooth surfaces
- Upright leaves, grey-green in colour, flat or canaliculate, from 20 to 55 cm long and 5 cm wide
- The stalk is 60 cm to 1.2 metres tall and up to 2 cm wide at the base
- The panicle is 10 to 40 cm long, with numerous branches closely spaced
- The seeds are elongated, between 0.5 and 1 cm long
- The rhizomes spread horizontally and produce stolons

Ecology and reproduction

- The plants can develop in different types of littoral wetlands (intertidal zones), e.g. salt meadows, mud flats (slikkes), lagoons
- They can accept high salt concentrations and daily submersions
- They can take root on different substrates, e.g. sand, silt, gravel
- They disperse via seeds produced by sexual reproduction
- Clumps of plants propagate via the stolons

Documentation

- Hudin S., Vahrameev P. et al., 2010. Guide d'identification des plantes exotiques envahissant les milieux aquatiques et les berges du bassin Loire-Bretagne. Fédération des conservatoires d'espaces naturels, 45 pp.
- Télabotanica. 2016. E-flora fact sheet for *Spartina alterniflora*.

<http://www.tela-botanica.org/bdtx-nn-65440-synthese>

Author: Emmanuelle Sarat, IUCN French committee

Classification

Order	Poales
Family	Poaceae
Genus	<i>Spartina</i>
Species	<i>S. alterniflora</i> (Loiseleur, 1807)

