

Prairie cordgrass
Spartina pectinata

Minnesota C-Value: 5
Wetland Indicator Status: FACW+
Native



Leaves: Short ligule 1-3 mm with dense white hairs. Flat long and shiny leaves, in-rolled when dry and forms tight 'cords'. Very rough margins (finely toothed).

Stems: Plant may be 2 m tall with stout erect stems.

Flowers and fruit: Panicle with 10-30 short-stalked spikes that are 1-5 in. long. Spikes are comb-like, as the spikelets all hang to one side.

Plant communities: Dominant in wet prairies, wet meadows, also on shorelines, marshes and in ditches.

Comments: Perennial grass, sometimes called 'slough grass'. Distinct 1-sided flower head makes it easily distinguishable from other species. Sharp-edged leaves may be confused with rice cutgrass (*Leersia oryzoides*) earlier in the growing season, but rice cutgrass leaves are much thinner and wider, and the stem has hairy joints.

