

***Ammophila breviligulata* - *Lathyrus japonicus* Herbaceous Vegetation**

COMMON NAME American Beachgrass - Beach Pea Herbaceous Vegetation
SYNONYM Northern Beachgrass Dune
PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS Herbaceous Vegetation (V)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS Perennial graminoid vegetation (V.A)
PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP Temperate or subpolar grassland (V.A.5)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP Natural/Semi-natural (V.A.5.N)
FORMATION Medium-tall sod temperate or subpolar grassland (V.A.5.N.c)
ALLIANCE AMMOPHILA BREVILIGULATA HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 2

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM Terrestrial

RANGE

Acadia National Park

This has very limited extent in Acadia. It is only found in the Sand Beach area.

Globally

This association occurs in Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, and Rhode Island.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Acadia National Park

Sand dunes.

Globally

This dune grassland community of maritime beaches occurs on the North Atlantic coast from New Jersey north to central Maine. The substrate is wind-deposited sand of foredunes with no soil development.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Acadia National Park

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Herbaceous	<i>Ammophila breviligulata</i> , <i>Lathyrus japonicus</i>

Globally

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Herbaceous	<i>Ammophila breviligulata</i>

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

Acadia National Park

Ammophila breviligulata

Globally

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

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Dunegrass vegetation dominated by *Ammophila breviligulata* forming patchy cover in the 25-60% range. The one Acadia sample had only one additional species, *Lathyrus japonicus*.

Globally

Vegetation cover is often sparse and bare sand is usually evident. The dominant species is *Ammophila breviligulata*. Characteristic associates include *Lathyrus japonicus*, *Solidago sempervirens*, *Chamaecybe polygonifolia* and *Cakile edentula*. Other associates may include *Carex silicea*, *Artemisia stellariana*, *Lechea maritima*, *Polygonella articulata*, *Xanthium strumarium*, *Sueda maritima*, *Cyperus filiculmis*, and *Cyperus grayii*. Other grasses that may be present include *Panicum amarum* in the southern portion of the range, and *Leymus mollis* at the northern end of the range.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES

CONSERVATION RANK G4?

DATABASE CODE C EGL006274

COMMENTS

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This vegetation type is at its northeastern range limit, or perhaps better thought of as disjunct, in Acadia, and so not surprisingly is quite depauperate here. The associated species so typically found with *Ammophila breviligulata* further southwest (*Artemisia*

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program
Acadia National Park

spp., *Hudsonia* spp, etc.) do not occur here.

Very susceptible to foot traffic

Globally