

VEGETATION KEY FOR ASSATEAGUE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE

1a. Vegetation woody, tall (height 2m or taller)	2
1b. Vegetation generally shorter than 2m	8
2a. Vegetation predominantly needle-leaved	3
2b. Vegetation predominantly deciduous	5
3a. Vegetation more or less densely shaded	4
3b. Vegetation more open, with patches of bare sand prevalent.....	
..... <i>Pinus taeda / Hudsonia tomentosa</i> Woodland	
4a. Soils characterized by duff overlying sands; not influenced by water table	
..... <i>Pinus taeda / Myrica cerifera / Vitis rotundifolia</i> Forest	
4b. Soils characterized by moderately deep muck, surface water often present	
..... <i>Pinus taeda / Myrica cerifera / Osmunda regalis</i> Forest	
5a. Tree species dominant (<i>Prunus serotina, Aronia arbutifolia</i>) (although individuals may exhibit multiple trunks)	6
5b. Shrub species dominant	7
6a. Soils not influenced by water table.....	
..... <i>Prunus serotina / Myrica cerifera / Smilax rotundifolia</i> Forest	
6b. Soils wet	
..... <i>Acer rubrum - Nyssa sylvatica - Magnolia virginiana</i> Forest	
7a. Soils deep mucks with surface water common; hydrophytes present	
..... <i>Myrica cerifera / Hydrocotyle</i> spp. Shrubland	
7b. Soils drier (but still may be influenced by water table)	
..... <i>Myrica cerifera - Baccharis halimifolia / Spartina patens</i> Shrubland	
8a. Vegetation characterized by shrubs (>25% cover) < 2m tall, or vines	9
8b. Vegetation characterized by herbs.....	14
9a. <i>Myrica pensylvanica</i> dominant shrub	10
9b. Vegetation not as above	11
10a. Vegetation of foredunes; patchy, sparse, with open sand patches common	
..... <i>Myrica pensylvanica / Diodia teres</i> Shrubland	

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10b. Vegetation of more stable substrate; bunch grasses (<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i> , <i>Andropogon virginicus</i>) and herbs <i>Eupatorium hyssopifolium</i> , <i>E. rotundifolium</i> , <i>Gnaphalium</i> common.....	
<i>Myrica pensylvanica / Schizachyrium scoparium</i> ssp. <i>littorale</i> - <i>Eupatorium hyssopifolium</i>	
Sparse Shrubland	
11a. <i>Myrica cerifera</i> dominant shrub.....	
..... <i>Myrica (cerifera, pensylvanica) - Vaccinium corymbosum</i> Shrubland	
11b. Vegetation not as above	12
12a. Vines dominant.....	<i>Smilax glauca - Toxicodendron radicans</i> Shrubland
12b. Shrubs dominant.....	13
13a. Dwarf-shrubs dominant.....	
..... <i>Hudsonia tomentosa / Panicum (amarum, amarulum)</i> Dwarf-shrubland	
13b. Shrubs > 0.25m tall dominant.....	
..... <i>Baccharis halimifolia - Iva frutescens / Spartina patens</i> Shrubland	
14a. Herbaceous vegetation restricted to salt or brackish marshes (influenced by tidal flooding).....	15
14b. Herbaceous vegetation not tidally influenced	21
15a. <i>Spartina alterniflora</i> present in quantity or in lesser amounts with <i>Distichlis</i> <i>spicata</i>	16
15b. <i>Spartina alterniflora</i> nearly to totally absent.....	18
16a. <i>Spartina alterniflora</i> monotypic with little bare substrate.....	
..... <i>Spartina alterniflora / Ascophyllum nodosum</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	
16b. Vegetation not as above.....	17
17a. <i>Distichlis spicata</i> prevalent.....	
..... <i>Spartina alterniflora / Ascophyllum nodosum</i> Herbaceous Vegetation,	
17b. Large algal mats present; <i>Salicornia</i> spp. usually present.....	
..... <i>Salicornia</i> spp. <i>Sarcocornia perennis - Spartina alterniflora</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	
18a. <i>Juncus roemerianus</i> dominant	<i>Juncus roemerianus</i> Herbaceous Vegetation
18b. <i>Spartina patens</i> prevalent	19
19a. <i>Scirpus robustus</i> prevalent.....	

***Spartina patens - Distichlis spicata - Borrichia frutescens* Herbaceous Vegetation,
Scirpus robustus variant**

19b. <i>Scirpus robustus</i> absent	20
20a. Tall graminoids prevalent	
<i>Typha angustifolia - Hibiscus moscheutos</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	
20b. Short grasses prevalent	
<i>Spartina patens - Distichlis spicata - Borrichia frutescens</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	
21a. Vegetation very sparse, dominated by forbs.....	
..... <i>Cakile edentula</i> ssp. <i>edentula</i> - <i>Salsola caroliniana</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	
21b. Vegetation >10% cover	22
22a. Vegetation of dry sandy beaches and flats	23
22b. Vegetation of sheltered areas influenced by seasonal water table	24
23a. Vegetation of foredunes, <i>Ammophila breviligulata</i> present in quantity	
..... <i>Ammophila breviligulata - Panicum (amarum, amarulum)</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	
23b. Vegetation of overwash areas, <i>Scirpus pungens</i> or <i>Spartina patens</i> present in quantity	
..... <i>Spartina patens - Scirpus pungens - Solidago sempervirens</i> (upland) Herbaceous Vegetation	
24a. Tall graminoid, depauperate, strongly dominated by <i>Phragmites australis</i>	
..... <i>Phragmites australis</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	
24b. Vegetation of greater diversity.....	25
25a. <i>Panicum virgatum</i> prevalent to strongly dominant	
..... <i>Panicum virgatum - Spartina patens</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	
25b. <i>Panicum virgatum</i> minor to absent.....	26
26a. <i>Drosera intermedia</i> very common; <i>Scirpus pungens</i> minor to absent	
..... <i>Juncus dichotomus - Drosera intermedia</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	
26b. <i>Drosera intermedia</i> absent; <i>Scirpus pungens</i> common	
..... <i>Scirpus pungens - Fimbristylis castanea</i> Herbaceous Vegetation	