

**V.A.5.N.c.2. AMMOPHILA BREVILIGULATA HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE**

American Beachgrass Herbaceous Alliance

Physiognomic Class      Herbaceous Vegetation (V.)  
Physiognomic Subclass    Perennial graminoid vegetation (grassland) (V.A.)  
Physiognomic Group      Temperate or sub-polar 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  
(V.A.5.N.c.2.)**

*Ammophila breviligulata* - *Lathyrus japonicus* Herbaceous Vegetation

American Beachgrass - Beach Pea Herbaceous Vegetation

*Northern Beachgrass Dune*

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CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL:      2

USFS WETLAND SYSTEM:      N/A

RANGE:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

This association occurs on foredunes along the length of Fire Island.

***Globally***

This occurs on the North Atlantic coast from New Jersey to central Maine.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

This association occurs on maritime foredunes with no soil development. The substrate is bare wind-deposited sand. This vegetation is exposed to salt spray, occasional overwash, and wind.

***Globally***

This occurs on maritime sand dunes. The substrate is wind-deposited sand with no soil development.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

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

***Globally***

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

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

*Ammophila breviligulata*, *Lathyrus japonicus*, *Solidago sempervirens*, *Chamaecyse polygonifolia*

***Globally***

*Ammophila breviligulata*, *Lathyrus japonicus*, *Solidago sempervirens*

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

This maritime dune grassland occurs on well-developed dune systems. *Ammophila breviligulata* is dominant throughout and occurs in scattered clumps to dense patches. *Lathyrus japonicus* and *Solidago sempervirens* are usually scattered within the *Ammophila* patches with low percent cover. Other associates may include *Lechea maritima*, *Cakile edentula*, *Pityopsis falcata*, *Artemisia stelleriana*, *Polygonella articulata*, and *Chamaecyse polygonifolia*.

**USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program**  
**Fire Island National Seashore**

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***Globally***

This is a maritime dune grassland community. Vegetation cover is often sparse and bare sand is usually evident. The dominant species is *Ammophila breviligulata*. Characteristic associates include *Lathyrus japonicus*, *Solidago sempervirens*, *Chamaesyce polygonifolia*, and *Cakile edentula*. Other associates may include *Carex silicea*, *Artemisia stelleriana*, *Lechea maritima*, *Polygonella articulata*, *Xanthium strumarium*, *Suaeda maritima*, *Cyperus filiculmis*, and *Cyperus grayi*. 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.

COMMENTS:

***Fire Island National Seashore***

***Globally***

***States/Provinces:***

CT:S?, MA:S?, ME:S?, NH:S?, NJ:S?, NY:S?, RI:S?

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES:

CONSERVATION RANK:

G4?

DATABASE CODE:

CEGL006274

MAP UNITS:

REFERENCES:

Dowhan and Rozsa 1989

Johnson 1985

Martin 1959b

Moul 1969

Nelson and Fink 1980

Sperduto 1997a