



In the image, the plant being identified and planted is **Ammophila breviligulata**, commonly known as **American Beachgrass**.

### Description:

- **Scientific name:** *Ammophila breviligulata*
- **Common name:** American Beachgrass
- **Native range:** Eastern North America, particularly along the Atlantic coast and Great Lakes region.
- **Growth habit:** Perennial grass forming dense clumps. It spreads via underground rhizomes, making it excellent at stabilizing sandy soils.
- **Height:** Typically 2–3 feet tall.
- **Leaves:** Narrow, rolled, gray-green leaves that can withstand drought and salt spray.

## Ecological Importance:

- **Dune stabilization:** Its extensive root system binds sand and helps form and stabilize coastal dunes, protecting inland areas from erosion and storm surges.
- **Habitat creation:** Provides shelter for small animals and insects in coastal ecosystems.
- **Resilience:** Tolerates harsh, sandy, salty, and windy environments where few other plants can survive.

This makes *Ammophila breviligulata* one of the most important **native coastal plants** for shoreline restoration and dune management.

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Here are some **other native coastal plants** that are often used alongside *Ammophila breviligulata* (American Beachgrass) in restoration and landscaping projects:

## Grasses & Grass-like Plants

1. **Panicum amarum** (*Bitter Panicum*)
  - Tall, bluish-green grass common on dunes.
  - Provides stabilization similar to beachgrass but tolerates a wider range of soils.
2. **Spartina patens** (*Saltmeadow Cordgrass*)
  - Fine-textured, wiry grass forming dense mats.
  - Common in upper salt marshes and sandy uplands.
3. **Uniola paniculata** (*Sea Oats*)
  - Iconic tall grass of southern U.S. dunes.
  - Known for its large oat-like seed heads.

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## Shrubs & Low Woody Plants

4. **Morella pensylvanica** (*Northern Bayberry*)
    - Fragrant shrub producing waxy gray berries.
    - Provides food for birds and windbreak protection.
  5. **Rosa virginiana** (*Virginia Rose*) or **Rosa carolina** (*Carolina Rose*)
    - Native wild roses with pink flowers.
    - Good for dune edges and wildlife habitat.
  6. **Prunus maritima** (*Beach Plum*)
    - Small shrub with edible purple fruits.
    - Thrives in sandy, coastal soils.
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## Herbaceous Wildflowers

### 7. **Solidago sempervirens** (*Seaside Goldenrod*)

- Bright yellow flowers in late summer and fall.
- Salt-tolerant and attracts pollinators.

### 8. **Hudsonia tomentosa** (*Woolly Beachheather*)

- Low, mat-forming plant with tiny yellow flowers.
- Helps stabilize foredunes.

### 9. **Lathyrus japonicus** (*Beach Pea*)

- Vining legume with purple flowers.
  - Fixes nitrogen and stabilizes sand.
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