



Ammophila breviligulata
(American Beachgrass)

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.

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.

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.

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.
