

Tidal Freshwater Marsh

A tidal freshwater marsh (TFM) is a grassy wetland that occurs along rivers and lakes that are close enough to the ocean to be influenced by tides, but far enough upstream that saline ocean waters do not reach them. The lack of salt stress creates greater diversity in plant life in TFMs compared to salt marshes.

Tidal freshwater marshes are relatively rare natural communities, because many have been drained or altered for human needs (rice farming, development) or subjected to salt water intrusion. The latter could become a greater problem as sea levels rise and salt water is able to reach places farther upstream.

Species in the tidal freshwater marsh



Tidalmarsh amaranth
(*Amaranthus cannabinus*)



Beggarticks (*Bidens* spp.)



Narrowleaf cattail
(*Typha angustifolia*)



Water smartweed
(*Polygonum punctatum*)



Common arrowhead
(*Sagittaria latifolia*)



Bulrushes (*Scirpus* spp.)



Sweet flag
(*Acorus americanus*)



Wild rice
(*Zizania aquatica*)



Broadfruit bur-reed
(*Sparganium eurycarpum*)

A handy ID poem: "Sedges have edges and rushes are round,
grasses are hollow with nodes to the ground"

Can you find a high tide line on any of the plants? What is the tidal range here?



Rice cutgrass
(*Leersia oryzoides*)