

## Pickleweed (*Sarcocornia perrenis*, Chenopodiaceae):



This succulent looking plant is actually related to spinach. Blue-grey in summer it can turn strikingly red and orange in late summer and fall. Also known as glasswort and sea asparagus, pickleweed is edible when it grows on unpolluted

shorelines. It is the most salt tolerant of the marsh species, growing below the high tide line and building the terrestrial edge of the living shoreline.

## Saltmarsh dodder (*Cuscuta pacifica*, Convolvulaceae):



This oddball plant, which looks like a tangle of silly string or unwound bailing twine, is a true parasite—it gets all of its nutrition from a host plant (most often pickleweed). With no roots and no chlorophyll, it cannot survive without a host. The bright orange strands produce a burst of tiny white flowers, which give rise to a new generation of dodder each year.

## Seashore saltgrass (*Distichlis spicata*, Poaceae):

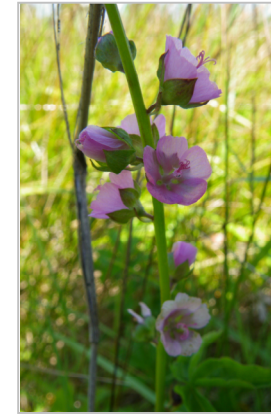


The grass that cries: seashore saltgrass eliminates excess salt by exuding concentrated brine through its leaves. You can sometimes see the result as a white film on the leaves of this small tough grass. Saltgrass begins to form a community with pickleweed just a bit farther up from the high tides.

## Arrowgrass (*Triglochin maritima*, Scheuchzeriaceae):



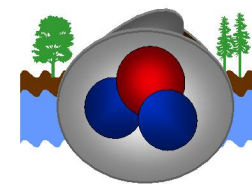
This bright green grass-like plant has a strong coriander fragrance that easily distinguishes it from the similar looking sea-plantain.



## Henderson's checkermallow (*Sidalcea hendersonii*, Malvaceae):

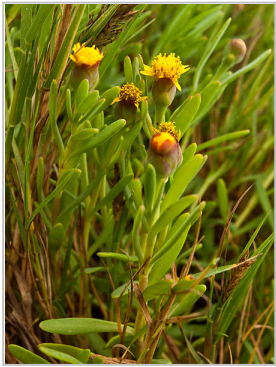
Weeks Wetland is the only place on Lopez where this rare and graceful native hollyhock relative

grows. The lily pad-like leaves are far more abundant than the flowers, which are a tasty target for deer. This plant has two types of plants that produce different flowers, ones that only produce seed (shown above) and ones that produce both pollen and seed (shown on the front of this pamphlet). Selective predation by seed eating weevils maintains the two types of plants. Look for blooming checkermallow in June.



**KWIÁHT**  
Center for the Historical  
Ecology of the Salish Sea  
[www.kwiaht.org](http://www.kwiaht.org)  
P.O. Box 415  
Lopez, WA 98261





**Jaumea**  
*(Jaumea carnosa,*  
*Asteraceae):*

Bright yellow flowers of tiny jaumea add unexpected color to the blue-grey pickleweed meadows. This small daisy relative grows on the outer edge of Weeks Wetland intermixed with saltgrass and pickleweed.

**Sea plantain (*Plantago maritima,* Plantaginaceae):**



The native, salt tolerant cousin of our common lawn weed, sea plantain grows both in salt marshes and on rocky shores. Like the European plantains, sea plantain is edible; be sure not to confuse it with the look-alike arrowgrass.

**Pacific hemlock parsley**  
*(Conioselinum pacificum,*  
*Apiaceae):*



As its name suggests, this coast dwelling carrot-relative looks like a cross between poison hemlock and garden parsley.

**Gumweed (*Grindelia integrifolia,* Asteraceae):**



With its sticky flowers and resinous smell, this member of the sunflower family is aptly named. Blooming much of the year on exposed meadows, saltmarshes and bluffs, this native wildflower is well adapted to salty conditions.

## Salt Marsh Plants at Weeks Wetland



Where the briny tides of Fisherman Bay meet the outflow of freshwater from Lopez Village a unique estuarine salt marsh is formed. The native plants at San Juan County Land Bank's Fisherman Bay Preserve: Weeks Wetland thrive in that brackish zone.

