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Arcata Marsh & Wildlife Sanctuary

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A CHECKLIST OF THE VASCULAR PLANTS OF THE ARCATA MARSH & WILDLIFE SANCTUARY (HUMBOLDT COUNTY, CALIFORNIA)

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The Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary is located at the north end of Humboldt Bay. It consists of 307 acres of freshwater and salt marshes, mud flats, tidal sloughs, grassy uplands, and five miles of paths. It is also the home of the city's wastewater treatment facility. The Visitor Center is just off South G St. in Arcata. The marsh is a popular area for birders because it is located along a major migratory pathway.

This plant list rests largely on two prepared in the 1990's by Joan Elk and Louise Watson. I have updated scientific names and family assignments, and have added a few plants noticed on my many pleasant walks at the marsh. The Friends of the Arcata Marsh has published a very useful photographic guide to 101 of the common plants of the area. It may be purchased at the Interpretive Center.

The entry for each plant consists of three elements: scientific name, common name, and a code that shows its nativity, growth form, and duration. You will not need a decoder ring. A = annual; I = introduced; N = native; P = perennial; S = shrub; SS = subshrub; T = tree; V = vine. Thus NA is a native annual, IT is an introduced tree, etc.

Plants bearing the symbol ✧ have appeared on one or more older checklists, but they have not otherwise been documented for Humboldt County or even northwestern California. If you know where I might find them in the marsh, please contact me at jps2@humboldt.edu.

FERNS

BLECHNACEAE • DEER FERN FAMILY
Woodwardia fimbriata • Western chain fern • NP

DENNSTAEDTIACEAE • BRACKEN FERN FAMILY
Pteridium aquilinum • Bracken fern • NP

EQUISETACEAE • HORSETAIL FAMILY
Equisetum arvense • Common horsetail • NP

SALVINIACEAE • FLOATING FERN FAMILY
Azolla filiculoides • Mosquito fern, water velvet • NA

CONIFERS

CUPRESSACEAE • CYPRESS FAMILY
Chamaecyparis lawsoniana • Port Orford-cedar • NT
Cupressus macrocarpa • Monterey cypress • IT
Juniperus chinensis • Low juniper • IS ✧
Sequoia sempervirens • Coast redwood • NT
Thuja plicata • western red-cedar • NT

PINACEAE • PINE FAMILY
Picea sitchensis • Sitka spruce • NT
Pinus muricata • Bishop pine • NT
Pinus radiata • Monterey pine • IT
Pseudotsuga menziesii • Douglas-fir • NT

FLOWERING PLANTS

ACERACEAE • MAPLE FAMILY
Acer macrophyllum • Big leaf maple • NT

ALISMATACEAE • WATER PLANTAIN FAMILY
Alisma triviale • Northern water plantain • NP

AMARANTHACEAE • PIGWEED FAMILY
Atriplex patula • Spear saltbush • NA
Salicornia depressa • Pickle weed • NPSSS

AMARYLLIDACEAE • AMARYLLIS FAMILY
Allium neopolitanum • White or daffodil garlic • IP
Allium triquetrum • False garlic, wild onion • IP
Narcissus sp. • Narcissus, daffodil

APOCYNACEAE • DOGBANE FAMILY
Vinca major • Periwinkle • IVS

AQUIFOLIACEAE • HOLLY FAMILY
Ilex aquifolium • English holly • IST

ARACEAE • ARUM OR PHILODENDRON FAMILY
Arum palaestinum • Solomon's-lily • IP

ASPARAGACEAE • HYACINTH FAMILY

Brodiaea coronaria • Harvest brodiaea • NP
Triteleia laxa • Ithuriel's spear • NP

ASPHODELACEAE • DAY-LILY FAMILY

Kniphofia uvaria • Red-hot poker • IP

BERBERIDACEAE • BARBERRY FAMILY

Berberis darwinii • Darwin's barberry • IS

BETULACEAE • BIRCH FAMILY

Alnus rubra • Red alder • NT

BORAGINACEAE • BORAGE FAMILY

Borago officinalis • Common borage • IA

CAPRIFOLIACEAE • HONEYSUCKLE FAMILY

Lonicera involucrata • Twin berry • NS

CARYOPHYLLACEAE • CARNATION FAMILY

Cerastium glomeratum • Sticky mouse-ear • IA
Spergularia rubra • Purple sand spurrey • IAP
Stellaria media • Common chickweed • IAP

COMPOSITAE • ASTER FAMILY

Achillea millefolium • Yarrow • NP
Anaphalis margaritacea • Pearly everlasting • NP
Anthemis cotula • May weed, dog-fenne • IAL
Arctotheca calendula • Cape weed • IAP
Baccharis pilularis • Coyote brush • NS
Cirsium arvense • Canada thistle • IP
Cirsium vulgare • Bull thistle • IP
Cotula coronopifolia • Brass buttons • IP
Erigeron canadensis • Horse weed • NA
Glebionis coronaria • Garland chrysanthemum • IA
Grindelia hirsutula • Humboldt Bay gum plant • NP
Helminthotheca echioides • Bristly ox tongue • IAP
Hypochaeris radicata • Rough cat's ear • IP
Jaumea carnosa • Fleshy jaumea • NP
Lapsana communis • Nipplewort • IA
Layia carnosa • Beach layia • NA
Leontodon saxitilis • Hawkbit • IP
Leucanthemum vulgare • Oxeye daisy • IP
Madia sativa • Coast tarweed • NA
Matricaria discoidea • Pineapple weed • IA
Pseudognaphalium stramineum
 • Cotton-batting plant • NAP
Senecio hydrophilus • Marsh ragwort • NP
Senecio glomeratus • Australian fireweed • IAP
Senecio minimus • Coastal fireweed • IAP
Silybum marianum • Milk thistle • IAP
Sonchus asper • Prickly sow thistle • IA
Sonchus oleraceus • Common sow thistle • IA
Symphotrichum chilense • California aster • NP
Taraxacum officinale • Dandelion • IP
Tragopogon porrifolius • Purple salsify • IP

CONVOLVULACEAE • MORNING GLORY FAMILY

Calystegia sepium • Hedge bindweed • IV ✨
Calystegia silvatica • Large bindweed • IV
Cuscuta salina • Marsh dodder • NV

CRUCIFERAE • MUSTARD FAMILY

Brassica rapa • Field mustard • IAP
Brassica nigra • Black mustard • IA
Cardamine oligosperma • Bitter cress • NAP
Nasturtium officinale • Water cress • NP
Raphanus raphanistrum • Jointed wild radish • IAP

CYPERACEAE • SEDGE FAMILY

Bulboschoenus robustus • Alkali bulrush • NP
Carex lyngbyei • Lyngby's sedge • NP
Carex obnupta • Slough sedge • NP
Cyperus eragrostis • Umbrella sedge • NP
Eleocharis macrostachya • Pale spike-rush • NP
Eleocharis palustris • Common spike-rush • NP
Eleocharis parvula • Dwarf spike-rush • NP
Schoenoplectus californicus • California bulrush • NP
Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani
 • Soft-stem rush • NP
Scirpus microcarpus • Small-fruited bulrush • NP

DIPSACACEAE • TEASEL FAMILY

Dipsacus fullonum • Fuller's teasel • IP

FRANKENIACEAE • FRANKENIA FAMILY

Frankenia salina • Alkali-heath • NP ✨

GARRYACEAE • SILK-TASSEL FAMILY

Garrya elliptica • Coastal silk-tassel • NST

GENTIANACEAE • GENTIAN FAMILY

Zeltnera trichantha • Centaury • NA

GERANIACEAE • GERANIUM FAMILY

Geranium dissectum • Cut-leaved geranium • IA
Geranium molle • Doves-foot geranium • IA

GRAMINEAE • GRASS FAMILY

Agrostis stolonifera • Redtop, creeping bent grass • IP
Aira elegans • European hair grass • IA
Anthoxanthum odoratum • Sweet vernal grass • IP
Avena barbata • Slender wild oat • IA
Briza maxima • Big rattlesnake grass • IA
Briza minor • Little rattlesnake grass • IA
Bromus diandrus • Ripgut brome • IA
Calamagrostis canadensis • Blue joint • NP
Cortaderia jubata • Pampas grass • IP
Cynosurus echinatus • Dogtail grass • IA
Dactylis glomerata • Orchard grass • IP
Deschampsia caespitosa • Tufted hair grass • NP
Distichlis spicata • Salt grass • NP
Echinochloa crusgalli • Barnyard grass • IA
Elymus repens • Quack grass • IP
Festuca arundinacea • Tall or alta fescue • IP
Festuca californica • California fescue • NP
Festuca myuros • Annual fescue • IA
Festuca perennis • rye grass • IAP
Holcus lanatus • Common velvet grass • IP
Hordeum brachyantherum • Meadow barley • NP
Hordeum jubatum • Foxtail barley • NAP
Parapholis incurva • Sickie grass • IA
Poa annua • Annual blue grass, winter grass • IA
Poa unilateralis • Ocean-bluff blue grass • NP
Polypogon monspeliensis • Rabbit's-foot grass • IA
Spartina densiflora • Chilean cord grass • IP

GROSSULARIACEAE • GOOSEBERRY FAMILY

Ribes menziesii • Canyon gooseberry • NS
Ribes sanguineum • Pink flowering currant • NS

HALORAGACEAE • WATER MILFOIL FAMILY

Myriophyllum aquaticum • Parrot's feather • IP

HIPPURIDACEAE • MARE'S-TAIL FAMILY

Hippuris vulgaris • Mare's-tail • NP

HYDROCOTYLACEAE • WATER-PARSNIP FAMILY

Hydrocotyle ranunculoides • Water-parsnip • NP

HYPERICACEAE • ST. JOHN'S WORT FAMILY

Hypericum perforatum • Klamath weed • IAP

IRIDACEAE • IRIS FAMILY

Crocosmia x crosmiiflora • Montbretia • IP
Iris douglasiana • Douglas' iris • NP
Iris pseudacorus • Yellow iris • IP ✨
Ixia maculata • Ixia • IP
Sisyrinchium bellum • California blue-eyed-grass • NP
Watsonia angusta • Watsonia • IP ✨

JUNCACEAE • RUSH FAMILY

Juncus balticus var. *ater* • Baltic rush • NP
Juncus bufonius • Toad rush • NA
Juncus effusus • Soft rush • NP
Jiuncus lescurii • Salt rush • NP

JUNCAGINACEAE • ARROW-GRASS FAMILY

Triglochin maritima • Seaside arrow-grass • NP

LABIATAE (LAMIACEAE) • MINT FAMILY

Mentha pulegium • Pennyroyal • IP
Mentha spicata • Spearmint • IP
Stachys ajugoides • Hedge-nettle • NP
Stachys bullata • Hedge-nettle • NP

LAURACEAE • LAUREL FAMILY

Umbellularia californica • California bay • NST

LEGUMINOSAE • BEAN FAMILY

Cytisus scoparius • Scotch broom • IS
Genista monspessulana • French broom • IS
Lathyrus latifolius • Perennial sweet pea • IV
Lotus corniculatus • Bird's-foot trefoil • IP
Lotus formosissimus • Seaside bird's-foot trefoil • NP
Lupinus arboreus • Yellow bush lupine • IS
Lupinus bicolor • Miniature or dove lupine • NA
Medicago lupulina • Black medick • IA
Medicago polymorpha • California bur clover • IA
Melilotus officinalis • White sweet clover • IP
Melilotus indicus • Sour clover • IP
Trifolium microcephalum • Maiden clover • NA
Trifolium pratense • Red clover • IP
Trifolium repens • white clover • IP
Vicia americana • American vetch • NP
Vicia hirsuta • Hairy betch • IA
Vicia sativa • Common vetch • IA

LEMNACEAE • DUCKWEED FAMILY

Lemna minuta • Least duckweed • NP

LINACEAE • FLAX FAMILY

Linum usitatissimum • Common flax • IA

LYTHRACEAE • LOOSESTRIFE FAMILY

Lythrum hyssopifolium • Hyssop loosestrife • IAP

MALVACEAE • MALLOW OR COTTON FAMILY

Malva neglecta • Common mallow, cheeses • IAP

MONTIACEAE • MINER'S-LETTUCE FAMILY

Calandrinia ciliata • Red maids • NA

MYRICACEAE • WAX-MYRTLE FAMILY

Myrica californica • Wax-myrtle • NST

ONAGRACEAE • EVENING-PRIMROSE FAMILY

Epilobium angustifolium • Narrow-leaved fireweed • NP
Epilobium ciliatum • willow herb • NP
Fuchsia hybrida • Hybrid fuchsia • IS ✨
Oenothera glazioviana • Evening-primrose • IP

PAPAVERACEAE • POPPY FAMILY

Eschscholzia californica • California poppy • NAP

PLANTAGINACEAE • PLANTAGO FAMILY

Plantago lanceolata • English plantain • IP
Plantago major • Common plantain • IP

PLUMBAGINACEAE • LEADWORT FAMILY

Limonium californicum • sea-lavender • NP

POLEMONIACEAE • PHLOX FAMILY

Leptosiphon filipes • Filiform linanthus • NA

POLYGONACEAE • KNOTWEED FAMILY

Polygonum aviculare • Common knotweed • IP
Polygonum lapathifolium • Willow smart weed • NA
Rumex acetosella • Sheep-sorrel • IP
Rumex conglomeratus • Clustered dock • IP
Rumex crispus • Curly dock • IP
Rumex persicarioides • American golden dock • NA
Rumex pulcher • Fiddle dock • IP

POTAMOGETONACEAE • POND WEED FAMILY

Potamogeton crispus • Curly-leaved pond weed • IP
Stuckenia pectinata • Sago pond weed • NP

PRIMULACEAE • PRIMROSE FAMILY

Anagallis arvensis • Scarlet pimpernel • IA
Glaux maritima • Sea milkwort • NP

RANUNCULACEAE • BUTTERCUP FAMILY

Ranunculus californicus • California buttercup • NP
Ranunculus repens • Creeping buttercup • IP

RHAMNACEAE • BUCKTHORN FAMILY

Ceanothus thyrsiflorus • Blue blossom • NS
Frangula purshiana • Cascara sagrada • NS

ROSACEAE • ROSE FAMILY

Cotoneaster sp. • Cotoneaster • IS
Crataegus phaenopyrum
• Washington hawthorn • IS ✨
Heteromeles arbutifolia • Toyon • NST
Holodiscus discolor • Ocean spray • NS
Malus sp. • Wild apple • IST
Oemleria cerasiformis • Oso berryNS
Physocarpus capitatus • Ninebark • NS
Potentilla anserina • Pacific silver weed • NP
Prunus subcordata • Oregon or Klamath plum • NT
Prunus cerasifera • Cherry plum • IT
Prunus persica • Peach • IT
Rosa banksiae • Lady Bank's rose • IS ✨
Rubus armeniacus • Himalaya berry • IS
Rubus laciniatus • Evergreen blackberry • IS
Rubus parviflorus • Thimbleberry • NS
Rubus ursinus • California blackberry • NV

RUBIACEAE • BEDSTRAW FAMILY

Galium mollugo • Smooth bedstraw • NP ✨

RUPPIACEAE • DITCH-GRASS FAMILY

Ruppia maritima • Wigeon-grass • NP

SALICACEAE • WILLOW FAMILY

Salix alba • Golden willow • IT
Salix hookeriana • Coastal willow • NS
Salix sitchensis • Sitka or velvet willow • NS

SAMBUCACEAE • ELDERBERRY FAMILY

Sambucus racemosa • Red elderberry • NS

SCROPHULARIACEAE • FIGWORT FAMILY

Castilleja ambigua • Humboldt Bay owl's-clover • NA
Cordylanthus maritimus • Bird's-beak • NA
Digitalis purpurea • Foxglove • IP
Parentucellia viscosa • yellow gland weed • IA
Scrophularia californica • California figwort • NP
Triphysaria eriantha var. *rosea* • johnny-tuck • NA
Veronica anagallis-aquatica • Water speedwell • IP

TYPHACEAE • CAT-TAIL FAMILY

Typha latifolia • Broad-leaved cat-tail • NP

UMBELLIFERAE • CARROT FAMILY

Angelica hendersonii • Henderson's angelica • NP
Cicuta douglasii • Western water hemlock • NP
Conium maculatum • Poison or spotted hemlock • IP
Daucus carota • Queen Anne's lace, wild carrot • IP
Foeniculum vulgare • Sweet fennel • IP
Heracleum lanatum • Cow parsnip • NP
Oenanthe sarmentosa • Water-parsley • NP

URTICACEAE • NETTLE FAMILY

Urtica dioica • Stinging nettle • NP

VERBENACEAE • VERVAIN FAMILY

Verbena lasiostachys • Western verbena • NP

SOURCES

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