



TREES AND PLANTS

SEABEACH AMARANTH

ABOUT

Seabeach Amaranth (*Amaranthus Pumilus*), also known as Seabeach Pigweed, only occurs on Atlantic coastal plain beaches. This species is found in areas on barrier island beaches where there is little competition from other plants. One single large plant is capable of creating a mini sand dune with its ability to bind the sand. It is an annual with fleshy, reddish stems and small rounded leaves with indented veins that cluster toward the tip of the stem. The flowers and fruits are found in clusters along the stems and are not obvious. Germination occurs from April to July, when the plant forms a small sprig that soon begins to branch profusely into a clump. This clump can consist of five to 20 branches and grow over 3.28 ft (1 meter) across. Flowering usually begins in July and continues until the plant dies in late fall. Seed production starts in July or August and peaks in September or when the plant dies.

DID YOU KNOW?

Historically, Seabeach Amaranth was found in nine states ranging from Massachusetts to South Carolina. However it is currently only found in seven: New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. The plant was listed as threatened in April 1993. At that time, only 55 populations were known. The most serious threats to its survival include: construction of beach stabilization structures, beach erosion, tidal flooding, being eaten by (predation) feral animals and insects – particularly the webworm, and in some places, by damage from off-road vehicles. An infestation of webworms reduces the length of the reproductive season of the plant.

For more detailed information visit: www.centerforplantconservation.org or www.fws.gov.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

The infestation of what threatens the Seabeach Amaranth's reproductive season?

- a) The Grey Sand Beetle
- b) The Webworm
- c) The Webshell Crab
- d) The Southbeach Worm

Answer is B

