

You are viewing one of thousands of biographies – click below for more, including Search box and access to Plant associated organisations.

[Plant Biographies](#)

[Bibliography](#)

Chasmanthium latifolium

[Synonyms : *Distichlis palmeri*, *Uniola latifolia*, *Uniola palmeri*]

NORTHERN SEA OATS is a deciduous perennial grass. Native from south-eastern North America to northern Mexico, it has reddish-brown flower spikelets and leaves that turn reddish-brown in Autumn.

It is also known as American seaside oats, Broadleaf uniola, Broadleaf wood oats, Flat oats, Indian woodoats, Inland sea oats, North America wild oats, Northern oats, River oats, Sea oats, Seaside oats, Spangle grass, Upland sea oats, and Wild oats.

The flowers are pollinated by the wind. The prominent flat heads of the thin translucent fruit pods (containing seeds) flutter and rattle when ripe.

Latifolium is made up of Latin *lati-* (broad, wide) and *-folia* (leaved) components.

The Cocopa North American Indians collected the dark red seeds for food. These were not only dried and ground for a porridge-like mush but also stored for Winter use.

The grass is cultivated as an ornamental plant and the stalked seed heads are included in dried flower arrangements.

The seeds are enjoyed by many small mammals and birds such as grouse, wild turkey and waterfowl.