

Team SeaGrass

teamseagrass.blogspot.com



Chek Jawa Wetlands. Photo credits: Ria Tan

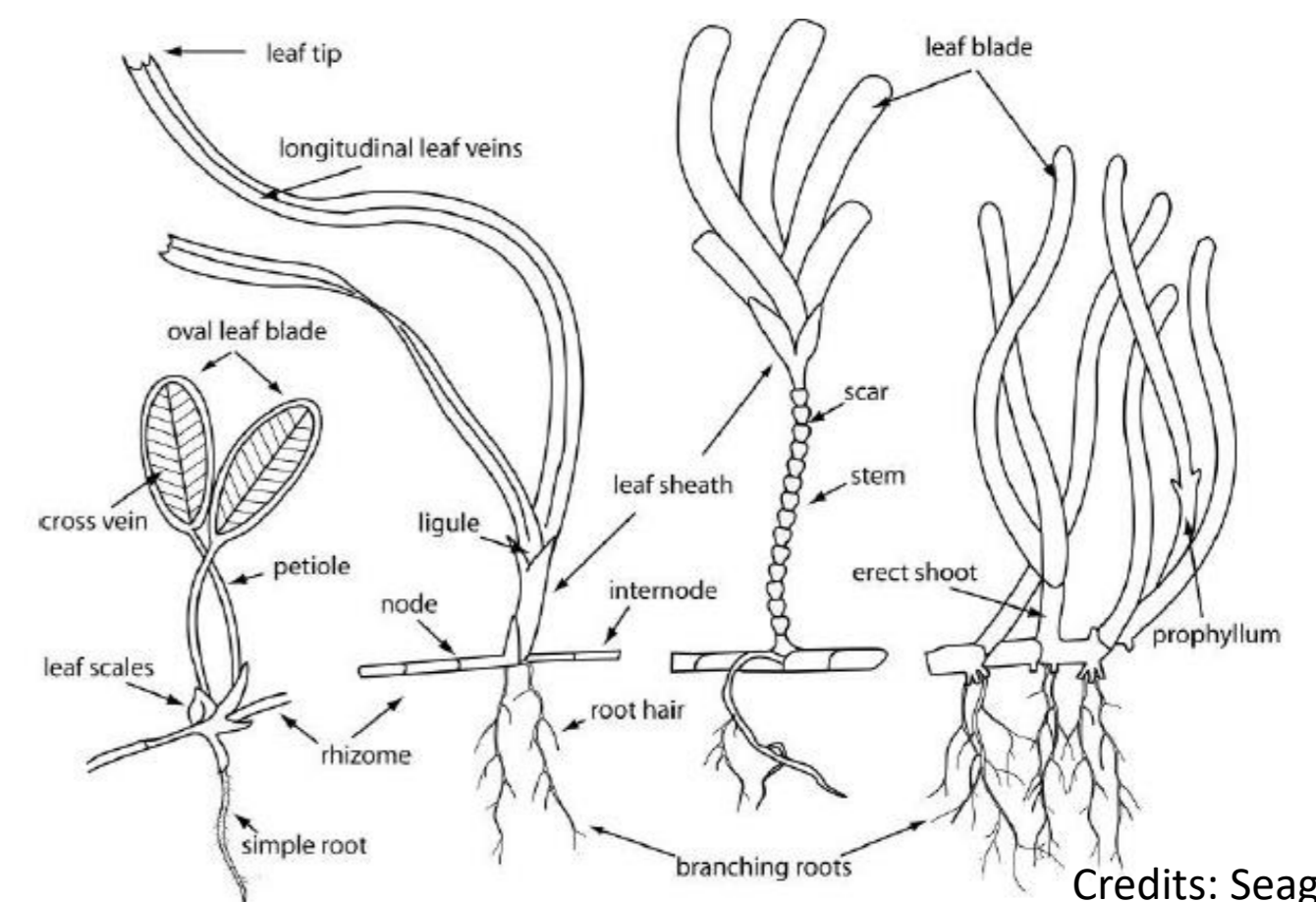
WHO IS TEAMSEAGRASS?

We are a team of like-minded volunteers who come together and monitor Singapore's amazing marine life and ecosystems! A joint collaboration with the National Biodiversity Centre of National Parks Board and international Seagrass-Watch, we are part of the largest, non-destructive seagrass assessment and monitoring programme in the world.



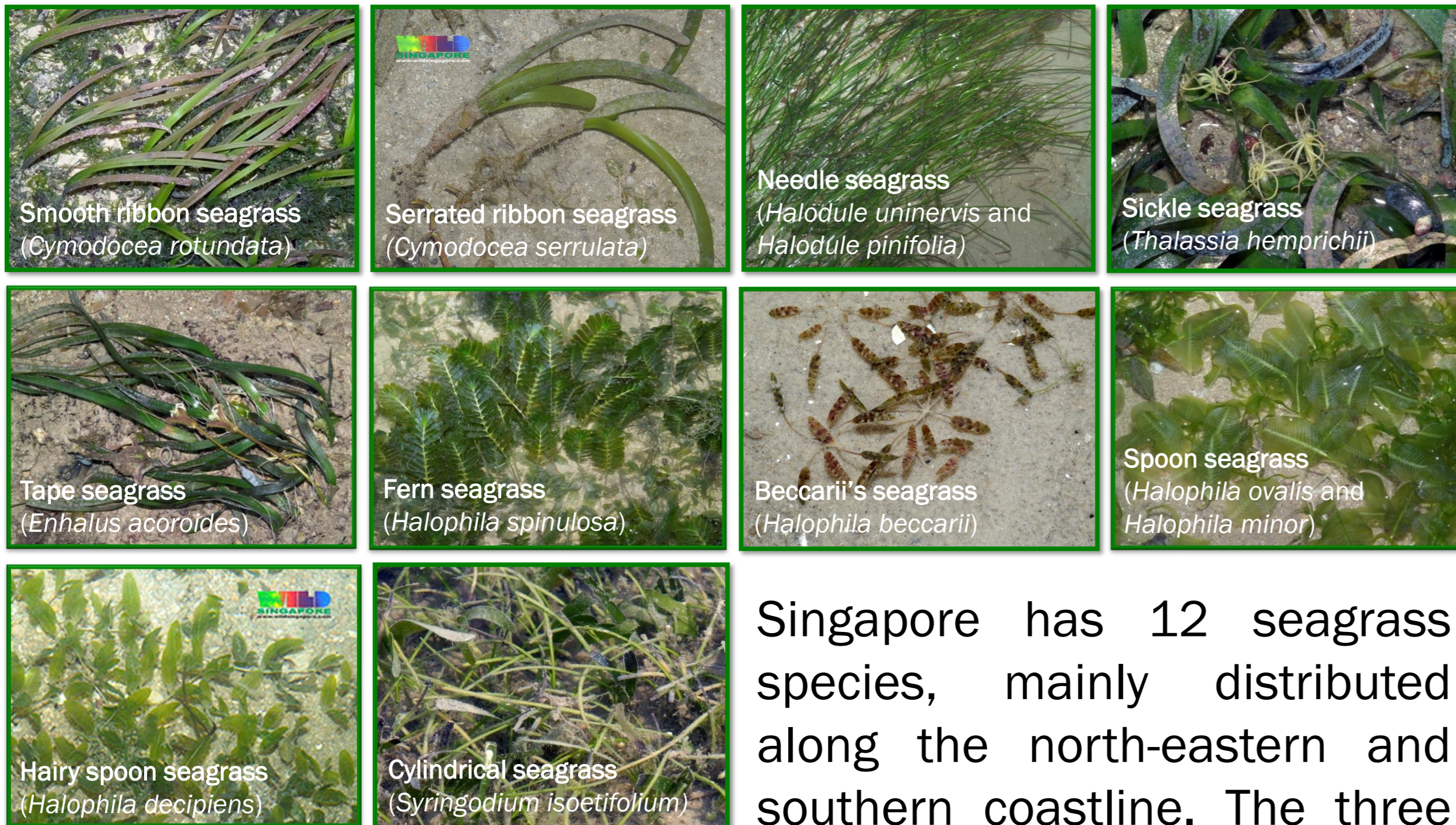
FACTS ABOUT SEAGRASSES

- Seagrasses are the only marine flowering plants adapted to grow in coastal waters.
- Not true grasses – more related to the lily family.
- Commonly mistaken for seaweed.
- More than 60 species recorded globally.
- Mainly found in intertidal regions and up to 25m deep.
- Some species are consumed by people.



Credits: Seagrass-Watch

SEAGRASSES OF SINGAPORE



Singapore has 12 seagrass species, mainly distributed along the north-eastern and southern coastline. The three

largest seagrass meadows include Pulau Semakau, Cyrene Reefs, and Chek Jawa-Pulau Ubin. Within Chek Jawa itself, there are already 8 species!

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO CONSERVE SEAGRASSES?

One of the most productive and dynamic ecosystems globally, they significantly influence the environments in which they grow by acting as 'ecological engineers'. They are important nutrient sinks, provide habitats and nursery grounds for many marine animals, and act as sediment stabilisers. Seagrass ecosystems form a very important part of the global marine ecosystem and help to ensure that our coastal waters remain full of life and continue as sustainable environments.



Dugong. Credits: Wikipedia



Green turtle

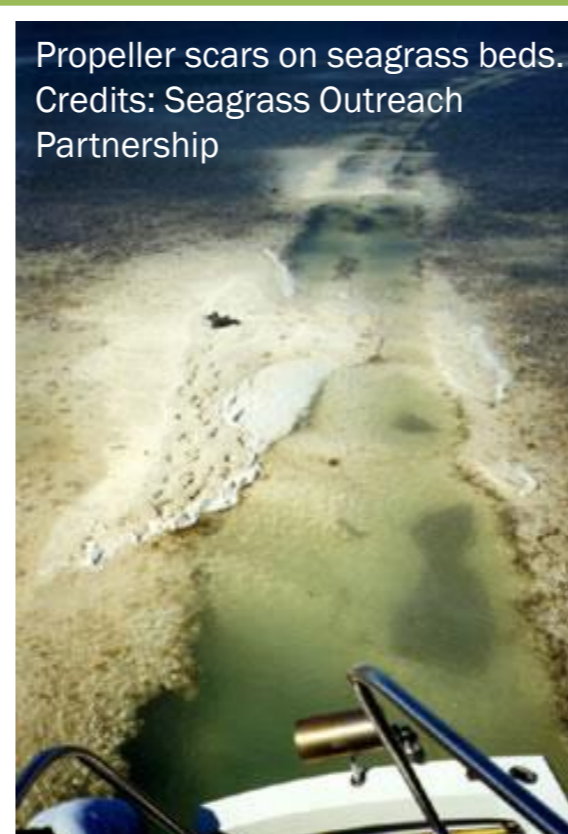
THREATS TO SEAGRASSES

1. Boating and fishing activities
2. Oil and trace metal contamination
3. Dredging boat channels
4. Coastal development
5. Climate change




Impacts on seagrass meadows:

- Reduction in light availability
- Eutrophication
- Direct toxic effects on seagrass
- Physical damage or destruction
- Shift in species composition
- Invasive species competition



Propeller scars on seagrass beds. Credits: Seagrass Outreach Partnership

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