

# SMALL-SCALE SAV RESTORATION IN CHESAPEAKE BAY

A guide to the Restoration of Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) in Chesapeake Bay and its Tidal Tributaries

## WHAT IS SAV?

Submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV), also known as “bay grass” in the Chesapeake Bay, is a group of flowering plants which live underwater. In the high-salinity marine environment, submerged plants are often called “seagrasses.” However, the term “SAV” applies to all of the underwater plants that inhabit the full range of estuarine salinities, from tidal fresh and low salinity to brackish and saltwater.

SAV is different from seaweed because it has a vascular system which transports nutrients between the sediment, roots, and leaves, just like terrestrial plants. SAV also reproduces through flowering, pollination, and seeds, unlike seaweed. Some SAV species can also reproduce asexually when adult plants spread to create “baby” clones, or when plant fragments sprout into new plants.



photo credit: Chesapeake Bay Program

## WHAT IS THE GUIDE?

A comprehensive resource for individuals & organizations with an interest in restoring SAV in the tidal waters of the Chesapeake Bay. Its development was sponsored by the Chesapeake Bay Program’s SAV Workgroup.

## WHO IS IT FOR?

The intended audience is federal and state agencies, local jurisdictions, and non-government organizations (such as Riverkeepers). However, anyone interested in the Chesapeake Bay and its living resources will likely find something of value here.

## WHY WAS IT MADE?

To get closer to meeting the Chesapeake Bay Program SAV restoration target by helping readers directly restore SAV in appropriate areas instead of relying solely on improvements in water quality to passively promote recovery.

## THE PROCESS

The guide will walk the reader through the multiple steps involved in planning and executing an SAV restoration project.



Regulations & Permitting



Site Selection



Seed & Plant Collection



Processing & Storage



Planting



Monitoring

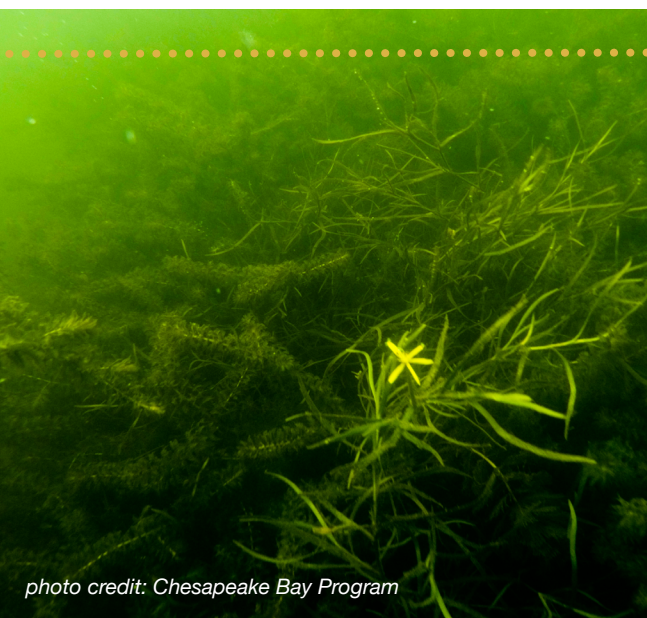


photo credit: Chesapeake Bay Program

# THE SPECIES

Wild Celery



0-5

Sago Pondweed



5-18

Redhead Grass



Widgeon Grass



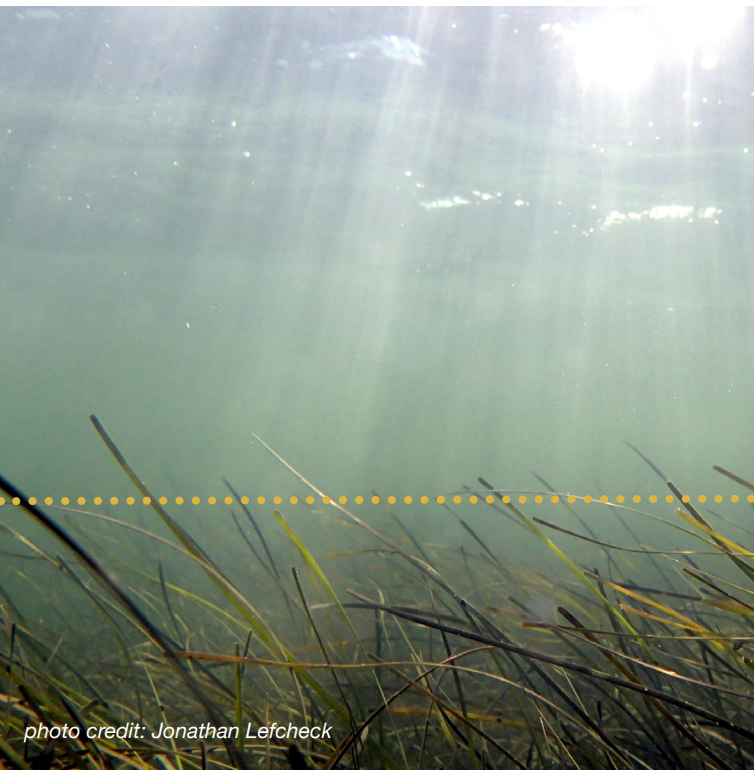
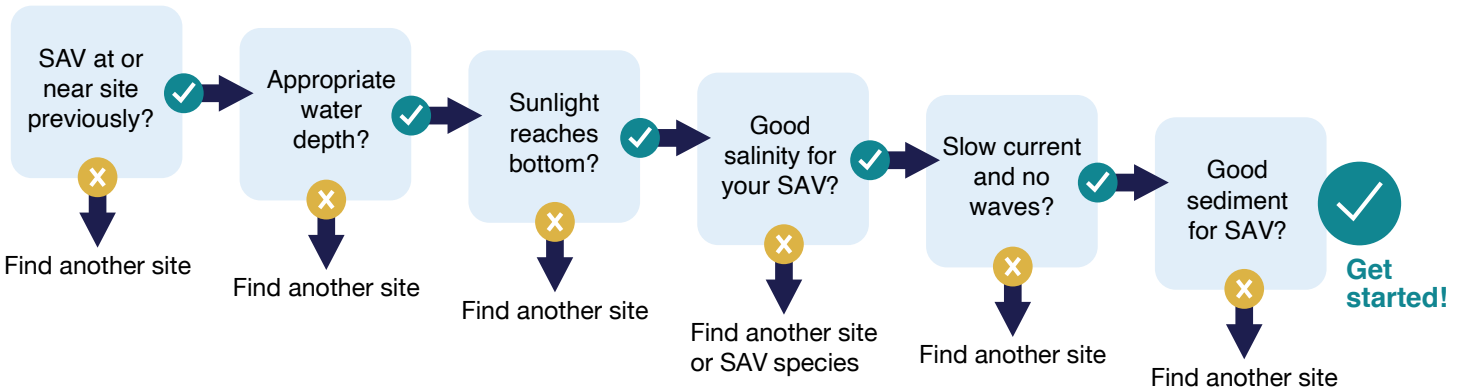
Eelgrass



>18

Salinity (in parts per thousand)

To know if your selected SAV species and your restoration site are a good match, you will need some information about the conditions at the restoration site; the guide includes information on how to gather this information, but the general flow chart is below.



Once you have selected your restoration site and determined the best SAV species to use for that site, the guide can answer questions like what time of year seeds or whole plants should be harvested, how to process and store seeds, how to plant seeds or whole plants, and how to monitor your SAV bed's growth.

Ready to get started?  
Download the guide at  
[chesapeakebay.net](http://chesapeakebay.net)