

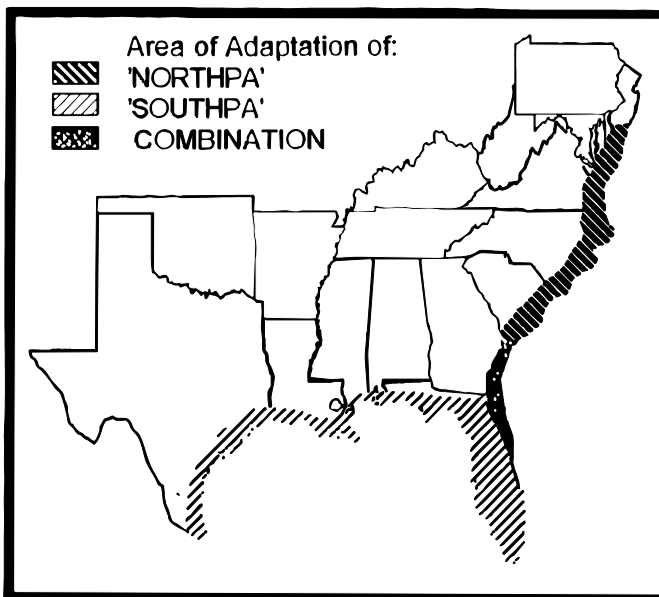
4-6 inches deep and 2-3 feet apart leaving the top 6-10 inches of the stem exposed. Plant unrooted cuttings three to a hole in staggered rows 2-3 feet apart with holes 2 feet apart in each row. Potted plants and bare root plants should be planted in staggered rows 2-3 feet apart with plants 2 feet apart in each row. Place plants 8-10 inches or deeper to moist soil.

Place one ounce of slow release fertilizer such as Osmocote in each hole as material is planted, or apply 200-300 pounds of 10-10-10 fertilizer 3-4 weeks after planting. Apply the same rate and kind June 1-15 and August 1-15 annually until the stand fills in the spacing.

Irrigation is beneficial until plantings become established. Planted areas should be restricted from traffic.

Availability

For more information on availability or use of Northpa (PI-421957) or Southpa (PI-561721) bitter panicum, contact your local SCS office listed in the telephone directory under u.s. Government, u.s. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service.



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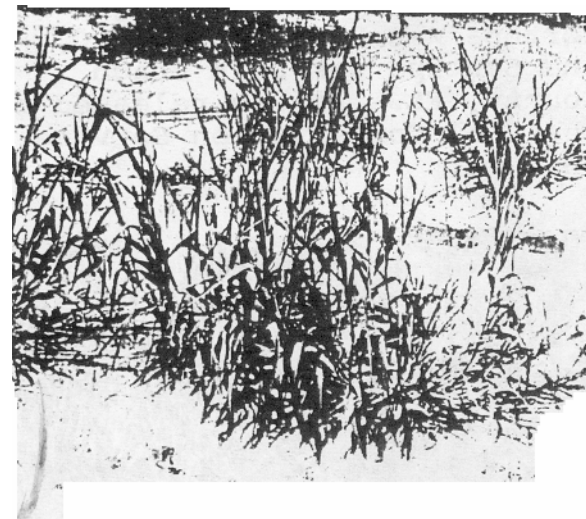
Soil Conservation Service

'Northpa'

and

'Southpa'

Bitter panicum



'Northpa' and 'Southpa'

(Pronounced Northpay/Southpay)

bitter panicum

The principle conservation use of 'Northpa' and 'Southpa' bitter panicum is wind erosion, beach stabilization, sand dune stabilization, and wildlife cover (birds.) It is primarily vegetatively propagated, and spreads by rhizomes. Bitter panicum traps sand, but resists being covered. Aerial stems that are covered will take root and strengthen the old plant and give rise to new ones.

The original collection material of Northpa and Southpa was vegetative. The origin of Northpa was Dare County, NC; and Southpa was Palm Beach County, FL. It was released by the Soil Conservation Service in 1992.



Description

Northpa and Southpa bitter panicum (*panicum amarum*) are native warm season coarse perennial grasses, with hairless glaucous culms in clumps or solitary from stout, creeping rhizomes. Erect culms 0.3 to 2 meters or more tall. Northpa has a sub-erect to slightly decumbent growth habit when compared to Southpa. Blades thick, 10 to 30 cm. long, 5 to 12 mm. wide, flat, involute toward the tip, the margins smooth. Small quantities of poor quality seed are produced on compact panicles.

The plants are salt tolerant and are an excellent choice for use in combination with crosswalks and snowfence for beach/dune projects.

Bitter panicum is stimulated by the accumulation of fresh sand continually blown inland from the shore. The sand either mechanically or nutritionally stimulates the growth of new shoots and tillers which keep pace with the accumulation. If the sand supply is choked off, as on the leeward parts of a foredune, the plants appear nutrient-deficient after several years.

Adaptation

The bitter panicums Northpa and Southpa grow best on frontal coastal sand dunes. Northpa is adapted to cooler climates from New Jersey south to North Florida and Texas, on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts. Southpa is adapted along the Gulf coast from Florida to Texas and to Georgia along the Atlantic coast.

Establishment

Freshly dug bare root tillers, rooted stem cuttings, or unrooted stem cutting may be used as planting material. Optimal time for planting of cuttings is late fall; young tillers, late spring (beginning of rainy season); potted plants, late winter or early spring. Bury unrooted stems end to end in trenches

