

PLANTING GUIDE

Hemarthria altissima

Limpogress

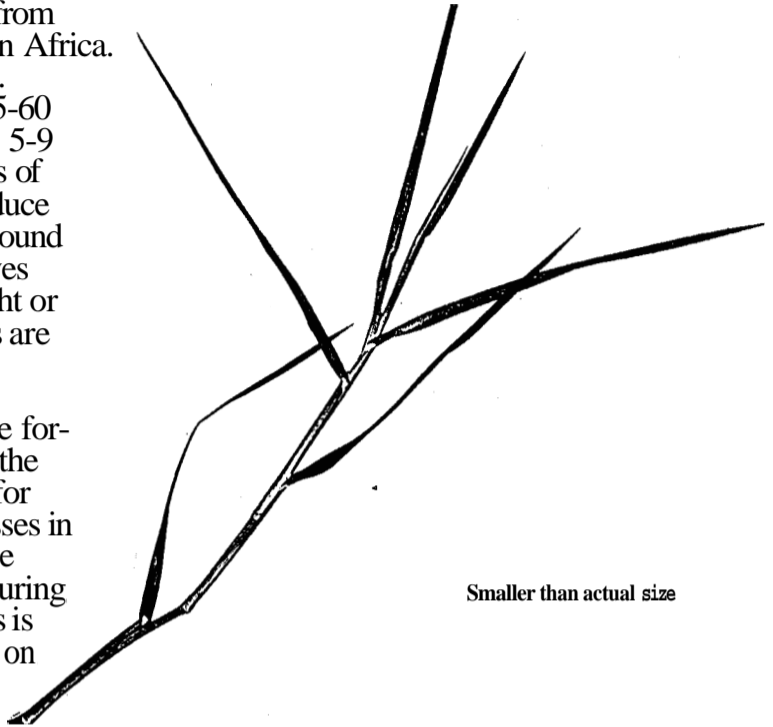
Description: This species was introduced from the Limpopo Valley of Southern Rhodesia in Africa. It is a strong, perennial, stoloniferous grass. The leaves, stems and seedheads grow to 45-60 inches on fertile ground. The stolons reach 5-9 feet long in one growing season. The joints of both the upright stems and stolons will produce rooted shoots. Leaves formed at or near ground level tend to be pale green. The upper leaves may twist in corkscrew fashion from drought or advanced age conditions. Few viable seeds are produced.

Conservation Use: Limpogress is a pasture forage well adapted to poorly-drained soils of the peninsular of Florida. It provides grazing for a few weeks before other warm season grasses in the spring and a few weeks after them in the autumn. It can be used for hay, but slow curing of the stems makes it difficult. Limpogress is also used in waste water disposal areas and on eroding stream banks.

Cultivars: Four cultivars are available: 'Floralta', 'Bigalta', 'Redalta' and 'Greenalta'. 'Floralta' was released in 1983 by the University of Florida. 'Bigalta', 'Redalta' and 'Greenalta' were released in 1978 cooperatively by the University of Florida and the Natural Resource Conservation service (formerly the Soil Conservation Service). 'Floralta' and 'Bigalta' produce the largest quantity of forage over a wide range of poorly-drained soils. 'Floralta' is more persistent under grazing than the other cultivars. 'Redalta' and 'Greenalta' are finer textured, leafier cultivars, less than 50 inches high. 'Redalta' has reddish leaves and stems. It is particularly adapted to somewhat poorly-drained and moderately well drained soils, and the northern part of the Florida peninsular. 'Redalta' has also performed well in areas of Texas and Louisiana, including plant hardiness zone 8a. 'Greenalta' remains green late into the autumn and is particularly adapted to very poorly-drained soils. 'Bigalta' is available commercially. 'Redalta' and 'Greenalta' are available from the Brooksville Plant Materials Center. 'Floralta' is available from the University of Florida.

Soil Preparation: Good soil preparation such as plowing and thorough disking should precede planting. Plantings should be made only when adequate moisture is present.

Plant Material: Well developed top material consisting of leaves and stems having mature nodes with side shoots and roots (usually present in July and August) may be used for planting.



Smaller than actual size

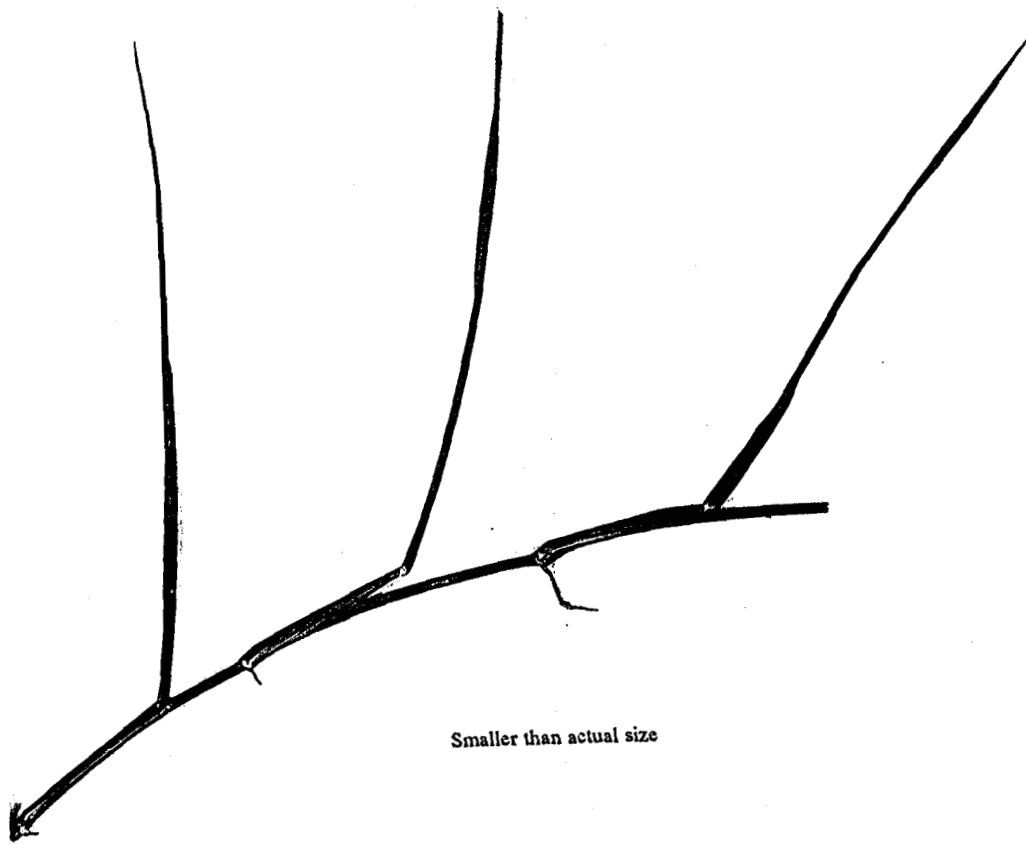
Method of Planting: Freshly cut stolons may be established by:

1. Spreading them uniformly over the soil and disking them in so 20 to 25 percent of the material protrudes from the soil surface. Cultipack after disking.
2. Opening shallow furrows, placing the stolons end-to-end in the furrows, and disking the furrows closed so 20 to 25 percent of the material protrudes from the soil surface. Cultipack after disking.

Planting Rate: An adequate stand can be established, on virgin soil with no weed problem, using a planting rate of 7 bales (500 pounds) per acre. Higher planting rates of 15-25 bales/acre are needed on old pastures or other areas where weed competition could impede the establishment of the new grass.

split. When fertilizer is needed, best results are achieved by applying fertilizer immediately after grazing or cutting for propagation. Iron is an essential minor nutrient, the lack of which causes severe chlorosis.

Management: Limpoglass should be grazed to a minimum height of 8-12 inches with a 10-12 week rest period.



USDA-NRCS Plant Materials Center
Brooksville, Florida 09/06/84
Revised 04/97