

# **‘Halifax’ Maidencane**



# **NRCS**

Natural Resources Conservation Service

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## 'Halifax' Maidencane

'Halifax' maidencane or paille fine (*Panicum hemitomon* Schult.) is recommended for shoreline erosion control on small lakes, ponds, irrigation reservoirs, channels and stream banks. It is also planted in constructed wetlands.

Halifax originated from a native stand of maidencane collected near Halifax, North Carolina. It was selected for its cold tolerance, rapid spread and vigorous growth and it was released in 1974 by the USDA, Soil Conservation Service, presently the Natural Resources Conservation Service, in cooperation with the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station.



*Controlling erosion along catfishpond levees*



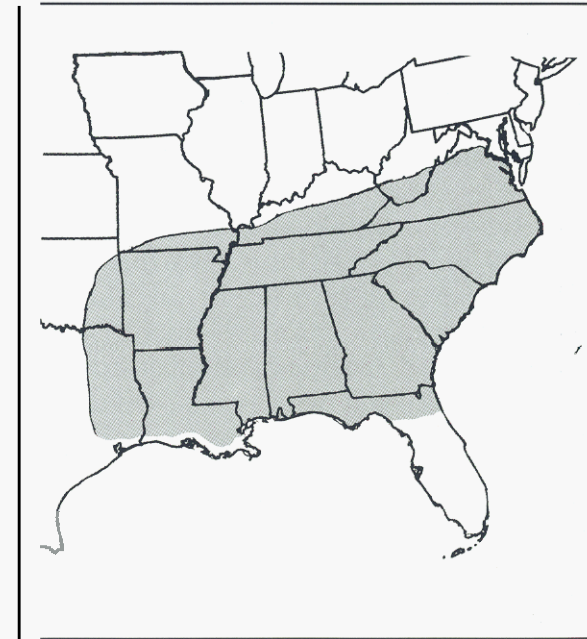
*Growth habit of Halifax*

### Description

Halifax is a native warm-season perennial aquatic or semi-aquatic grass that grows **2 to 3** feet tall. It produces many sterile shoots with overlapping sheaths. Leaf blades range from  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch wide and from **6 to 12** inches long. Panicle branches are erect, producing a spike-type seed head. None of the seed produced by Halifax has been found to be viable. It spreads from numerous, creeping rhizomes which allows it to form a dense vegetative mat.

### Adaptation

Native range of maidencane is from New Jersey to south Florida, west to east and southeast Texas. It grows on mineral clays to floating organic soils. Known range of adaptation of Halifax is indicated on the map below. Site preferences include stream banks, shallow depressions and marshes.



*Known range of adaptation of Halifax*



*Bare-root planting stock with conspicuous rhizomes*

## **Establishment**

Halifax is established from rhizomes planted in May or June. Rhizomes are planted into soft mud or in shallow furrows no more than two inches deep. Recommended spacing is one foot apart or less. If planted in furrows, cover the rhizome with soil. To ensure coverage and protection of newly constructed water impoundment levees, plant two to three rows of Halifax with one foot spacing between rows. The first row should be planted one foot above the normal water surface. At establishment, broadcast five pounds of 13-13-13 fertilizer or its equivalent per 100 feet of planted row. No fertilizer is needed if planted on catfish pond levees or in constructed wetlands because nutrients in the water will generally supply adequate fertility for plant growth.

## **Availability**

For more information on availability and use of Halifax maidencane, contact your local USDA, NRCS office. It can be found in the telephone directory under U.S. Government, Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

**Natural Resources Conservation Service  
U.S. Department of Agriculture**

**Cooperating with  
Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry  
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July 1998