

## PLANTING GUIDE

### SPARTINA PATENS

#### Saltmeadow Cordgrass Marshhay Cordgrass

**Description:** Perennial, warm season grass with erect stems, mostly less than 40 inches tall. It spreads by long slender rhizomes. Leaves are less than 1/8 inch wide, sometimes flat but usually rolled inward from the edges with the upper surface inside. Spikes are two to seven, 3/4 to 2 inches long, and borne against or away from the stem.

**Native Habitat and Range:** Salt marshes and sandy meadows from Quebec to Florida and Texas, and saline marshes inland from New York to Michigan.

**Conservation Uses:** Saltmeadow cordgrass is used for coastal erosion control in backdune areas, along tidal river banks, and on salt marshes above the high tide line. Inland uses include waterway and gully vegetation, and roadside minespoil, and saline oil seep stabilization. The hay is used as mulch and to graze cattle. Potted and bareroot plants are available commercially. Currently there are 3 cultivars in commercial trade: 'Flageo', 'Sharp', and 'Avalon'.

**Site Preparation:** None required but removal of trash on tidal areas will prevent burial of plants.

**Planting Time:** Late winter and early spring (and beginning of rainy season in Florida).

**Plant Material:** Potted plants or bareroot stock from vigorous, uncrowded stands - 5 to 10 stems per transplant.

**Spacing:** Place plants 12 to 24 inches apart depending on severity of site.

**Depth:** Plant soil and root mass 6 to 8 inches or deeper in moist soil.

**Fertilizer:** Apply fertilizer according to soil test recommendations. Application of fertilizer may be split.

**Maintenance:** Minimize foot traffic and remove debris from planting.

