



Plant Collection Information Sheet

Seashore dropseed,
Sporobolus virginicus

Scientific Name: *Sporobolus virginicus* (L.) Kunth

Common Name: Seashore Dropseed

Morphological Characteristics:

- native, perennial
- warm season grass
- strongly rhizomes with extensive root system
- forms dense patchy mats and will reach a height of 6-24 inches
- spreads vegetatively
- leaf blades are 2-4 inches long and are rolled inward
- seed head is a tightly compacted panicle with a purple to grayish tint, flowers from May to October
- found on sandy beaches, along the base of coastal sand dunes, and within inland salt marshes



Conservation Use:

Why collect this plant?

In Louisiana there is a lack of locally-adapted native (ecotypic) plant materials for use in revegetation projects. The **Louisiana Native Plant Initiative (LNPI)** was established to collect, evaluate and release new plant materials for use in Louisiana. The goals of the **LNPI** are to conserve a vanishing natural resource and provide an essential step in the development of a native plant industry in Louisiana. Commercial growers will then be able to supply plant material for restoration and revegetation projects within the state.

Louisiana NRCS in cooperation with **LNPI** has identified seashore dropseed, *Sporobolus virginicus* as a plant meeting project objectives. Plant and seed collections supporting **LNPI** are targeted for coastal Louisiana Parishes.

Future ecotype development will benefit the following conservation practice standards: 342 Critical Area Planting; 562 Recreation Area Improvement; 327 Conservation Cover; 643 Restoration and Management of Rare or Declining Habitats; 647 Early Successional Habitat Development/Management; 580 Streambank and Shoreline Protection; and others.

Your assistance in collecting this plant helps support the NRCS conservation practice standards which are employed daily to conserve the natural resources of Louisiana!

Centers Requesting Seed:

Golden Meadow Plant Materials Center

How to Collect Seed:

1. Identify native plant stands in your area. Use field guides and websites for helpful photos.
2. Determine if seed is mature. Mature seed is typically dry and will easily separate from the seed head.
3. Hand strip mature seed by grasping the bottom of the seed head then gently pulling away from the base of the plant. Deposit seed in a brown paper sack. Collect seed from a minimum of 30 to 50 plants.
4. Label each collection as it is made so collections do not get mixed up. Information required includes: Collector's name, number of plants collected, location (parish, city, highway, and GPS coordinates), site description (soil type, slope, and plants growing in association).
5. Complete NRCS-ECS-580; Plant Collection Information Form and mail with collected seeds to the NRCS Plant Materials Center requesting the species.

USDA-NRCS
Golden Meadow Plant Materials Center
438 Airport Road
Galliano, LA 70354

Helpful Tips:

Look for plants that display differences in color, height, or forage abundance and record observations. Differences in growing site or location should be made into separate collections if they are separated by more than 1 mile between sites.

Other Photos:

<http://plants.usda.gov>



USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / Hitchcock, A.S. (rev. A. Chase).
1950. *Manual of the grasses of the United States*. USDA Misc. Publ.
No. 200. Washington, DC.