

Prairie Cordgrass

Spartina pectinata

Establishment

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Plant Features

- Perennial
- Abundant leaves
- Strong Scaly Rhizomes
- 5-10 Feet Tall
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- Warm-Season Grass
- Serrated leaf margins

Site Adaptation

- Moist sites - streambanks, ditches, wet meadows
- Seasonally dry sites
- Wide array of soil types
- Tolerates alkali conditions
- Intolerant of prolonged flooding
- Native to USA
- Tall Grass Prairie



Uses

- Wetland Restoration and Enhancement
- Streambank Stabilization
- Windstrip Barriers
- Filterstrips
- Riparian Buffers
- Prairie Landscaping
- Wildlife Habitat
- Early Season Forage

Seed Propagation



1 Seeding Method

- Drill
- Broadcast

2 Seeding Rate (Based on 183,000 seeds/lb)

- 30 seeds/ft² (7 lbs PLS/ac)
- 1/2 to 1 lb PLS/ac in wet meadow mix

3 Seeding Date

- Spring (preferred) - May 10 to June 20 (ND)
- Fall (dormant) - after October 20 (ND)

4 Seeding Depth

- 1/2 to 3/4 inches

5 Seed Quality

- Current Purity and Germination Tests
Lab results may vary due to lack of standardized germination tests. Test seed dormancy. Germination deteriorates in temperature and humidity controlled storage after 3 years. Viability may decrease sooner in uncontrolled storage conditions of high temperature and humidity.
- Debarbed (Decawed)
Debarbed seed flows easier and seeding rate and placement is more uniform.

6 Seed Source

- Adapted Local Ecotype
Seed can be harvested by hand stripping or combining in late fall. Seed shattering is sporadic.
- Adapted Variety or Selection
Seed of Red River Germplasm, released from the Bismarck Plant Materials Center, is available in the commercial market. Most prairie cordgrass seed is produced in northern regions because of insect predation of seed in the more southern climates.



Vegetative Propagation



1 Vegetative Material

- "J" hook pieces of rhizome are most desired. All vegetative material must have roots and a vegetative bud.
- Rhizomes with 4 to 12 inches of dry stem are most easily handled.

2 Vegetative Source

- Local site
- Propagation bed
- Nursery

3 Harvest Method

- Hand dig
- Undercutter
- Disk
- Plow

4 Harvest Date

- Spring (early) - April to May
- Fall (dormant) - store in controlled storage

5 Planting Depth

- 3 to 6 inches

6 Planting Methods

- Hand plant
- Tree planter
- Sprigger

7 Rhizome Spacing

- Between rows - 6 to 15 feet for seed increase field, closer for erosion control
- Within row - 3 to 6 feet between rhizomes

