

Introduction

Citrus Germplasm maidencane or paille fine (*Panicum hemitomom*) is recommended for helping to control erosion along ponds, stream banks, shorelines, channels, and native forage for use on moist areas of improved pastures and rangelands. It is more beneficial than other native species in controlling erosion because of its height and rate of spread.

Citrus Germplasm maidencane was collected vegetatively by NRCS employees on Stage Pond Road off County Road 480 in Citrus County, FL.

Description

Citrus Germplasm maidencane is a native perennial, warm season, semi-erect grass with stems diverging from true vertical to 30-35 degrees. It is an aquatic to semi-aquatic grass and will spread from the shoreline both towards and away from the fresh water. It grows 36-40 inches tall and spreads by creeping rhizomes.

Growth generally commences in June and persists with good vigor into mid-autumn. Leaf blades are characteristically lush green, 8-12 inches long, and ½ inch wide. Rhizomes produce both sterile and fertile shoots. Sterile stems, which produce no seed heads, have hairy leaf sheaths; stems producing seeds are hairless.

The inflorescence is a compact, elongated panicle, 6 to 8 inches long. The quantity



of viable seed produced by this plant makes it impractical to establish by seed. Citrus maidencane has not shown any marked susceptibility to disease or insects.

Adaptation

Citrus maidencane prefers wet or moist areas throughout the State of Florida. This grass is intolerant of saline, brackish, or marine environments.

Establishment

Citrus maidencane will grow in a wide variety of soils varying from mineral clays to floating organic soils. It grows in standing water, but it is best if the water level fluctuates from 2 inches above the soil surface to 4 inches below the soil surface.

Citrus Maidencane is best established from rhizomes planted in the spring (April-June) in shallow furrows no more than 2 inches deep, and row spacing one foot apart.

Management

Field production can be established with mature stem material or rhizomes.

Digging or harvesting of plant material should not occur until the end of the second growing season, or until the field is well established.

Availability

Citrus Germplasm information can be obtained by contacting the Brooksville Plant Materials Center.



For More Information

Brooksville Plant Materials Center

14119 Broad Street

Brooksville, Florida 34601

Phone: 352-796-9600

<http://plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/flpmc/>

or

Plant Materials Specialist for Florida

P.O. Box 141510

Gainesville, FL 32614

Phone: 352-338-9544

or

any USDA Natural Resources
Conservation Service office

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Revised March 2006



Citrus Germplasm

Maidencane

Panicum hemitomom



Brooksville Plant Materials Center, Florida