

Establishment

Timbalier bluestem can be successfully established using container grown or bare root plant materials. Vegetative propagules from plant division or lower stem nodal tissue and used for nursery production. Container grown or bare root propagules should be planted on 2-5 foot centers on the primary dune ridge, back side, the more stable dune and swale areas behind the primary dune. Interspacing with other desirable dune species enhances habitat diversity and conservation effectiveness. Apply a blend fertilizer broadcast or slow release tablet or packet with each plant when planting. Gulf bluestem produces viable seed. The potential establishment of gulf bluestem by seed is being evaluated at the Golden Meadow Plant Materials Center.



Availability

For more information on availability and use of Timbalier gulf bluestem, contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Golden Meadow Plant Materials Center at the address below.



Golden Meadow Plant Materials Center
438 Airport Road
Galliano, Louisiana 70354

Phone (985) 475-5280
Fax (985) 475-6545
Email richard.neill@la.usda.gov

For more information about this and other plants, please contact your local NRCS field office or Conservation District, and visit the PLANTS Web site <<http://www.la.nrcs.usda.gov>> or the Plant Materials Program Web site <<http://Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov>>

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Timbalier Gulf Bluestem

(Schizachyrium maritimum)



Golden Meadow
Plant Materials Center
Galliano, Louisiana



Timbalier

Gulf Bluestem

Timbalier gulf bluestem (*Schizachyrium maritimum* (Chapman) Nash) is recommended for beach dune enhancement and stabilization on coastal beaches and barrier islands of the north central Gulf of Mexico basin. Timbalier germplasm is of known origin and has proven performance for planting and establishment in coastal areas of Mississippi and Louisiana. Gulf bluestem is potentiality imperiled in Louisiana because of its rarity and factors that make it especially vulnerable to extirpation. Gulf bluestem is an important species on dunes, beaches, and barrier islands to combat erosion and added species diversity.

Timbalier germplasm is a pre-varietal (tested class) release, vegetatively collected and propagated from a native colony of gulf bluestem found growing on Timbalier Island. Gulf bluestem plant materials were collected and vegetatively propagated from naturally occurring stands and have not been altered from the original collection.



Description

Timbalier gulf bluestem is a native warm-season perennial grass that spreads by seed and short rhizomes. Plants are rhizomatous and colonial, stems usually decumbent, glaucous leaves, prostrate growth habit, stems flattened at the base, and terminal inflorescences with stalked spikelets from .15 to .26 inches. Gulf bluestem performs best on the back side of primary dunes and the more stable back dune areas. This ecotype has proven to persist and perpetuate itself from seed. Gulf bluestem is found native to coastal and offshore islands of the Florida panhandle west to Louisiana.

This species is ranked on the Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species state list as extensive rarity and factors which make it especially vulnerable to extirpation, and global ranking of very rare and local throughout its range.

Adaptation

Timbalier gulf bluestem is intended for use on coastal beaches and barrier islands of the north central Gulf of Mexico basin. Timbalier performs best when planted on the leeward side of the primary dune. Timbalier is an excellent planting component to increase diversity and back dune stabilization when planted in association with *Panicum amarum*, *Uniola paniculata*, *Spartina patens*, and other herbaceous species. Timbalier can be successfully planted with proven persistence and performance on beaches and barrier islands of the Mississippi and Louisiana coast.

