

Availability of Plant Materials

Seed/plant stock of Southlow Michigan Germplasm indiagrass will be maintained cooperatively by the USDA NRCS Rose Lake Plant Materials Center and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and made available to qualified parties for source increase purposes.

To request seed/plant stock or further information contact

USDA NRCS
Plant Materials Specialist
3001 Coolidge Rd. Suite 250
East Lansing, MI 48823
Phone: (517) 324-5242
Fax: (517) 324-5171



Southlow Michigan Germplasm
indiagrass harvest

For More Information

Visit our Plant Materials website at <http://Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov> to learn more about using plants to solve conservation problems.

USDA/ NRCS
Rose Lake Plant Materials Center
7472 Stoll Road
East Lansing, MI 48823
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Southlow Michigan Germplasm Indiagrass

*A source-identified
conservation plant*



*released by the
Rose Lake Plant Materials Center,
East Lansing, Michigan*

Southlow Michigan Germplasm Indiangrass

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Michigan Association of Conservation Districts (MACD), and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) announce the release of a source identified ecotype of indiagrass (*Sorghastrum nutans* L. Nash) for the Great Lakes region.

As a source identified release, this plant will be referred to as **Southlow Michigan Germplasm indiagrass** to document its original collection locations in the southern Lower Peninsula of Michigan. Southlow Michigan Germplasm indiagrass is released as a source identified type of certified seed (natural track). It is a composite release that has been assigned the NRCS accession number 9084513.

This alternative release procedure is justified because sources and supplies of Michigan ecotype indiagrass are very limited and unable to meet the demand for this product. Propagation material of this ecotype is needed for ecosystem restoration and enhancement. The potential for immediate use is extremely high.

Collection Site Information

Seed was collected from native stands (as designated by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Division) of indiagrass within the

southern half of Michigan's Lower Peninsula.

Ecotype Description

Southlow Michigan Germplasm indiagrass is a composite of several indiagrass collections and has features consistent with the species. It is a perennial, warm season bunch grass with short rhizomes and erect stems that reach a height of six feet. Leaf blades are folded in the bud shoot. Sheaths are round, open and may be hairy at the base. The prominent, membranous, clawlike ligules resemble a rifle sight. Indiagrass has a narrow plumelike seedhead that turns golden at maturity.

Ecological Considerations and Evaluations

Southlow Michigan Germplasm indiagrass is native Michigan plant material that has undergone no purposeful selection; therefore it should not differ in rate of spread, seed production, vigor nor behavior from naturally occurring indiagrass in this area. Southlow Michigan Germplasm indiagrass has been through all required environmental evaluations.

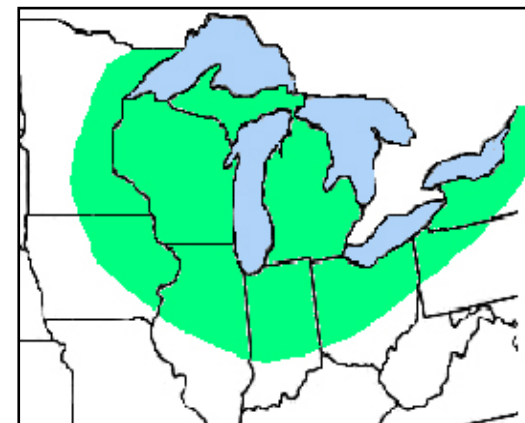
Anticipated Conservation Use

The anticipated uses of Southlow Michigan Germplasm indiagrass include providing food/cover for wildlife, increasing species diversity, controlling erosion, and restoring native plant environments. Indiagrass provides seeds and possible habitat for insects, both of which are used as food

sources by songbirds, gamebirds, and small mammals. Many wildlife species also utilize indiagrass for nesting, escape, and winter cover. As this is a native plant species and composite it will be useful as a component in the restoration and diversification of native habitats, particularly Southern Michigan, its source of origin. Indiagrass may also be useful in combination with other warm and cool season grasses for erosion control because of its massive root system.

Anticipated Area of Adaptation

This species is found in dry to moist open areas throughout much of the United States, and is a major component of tall and mixed grass prairies.



Southlow Michigan Germplasm indiagrass's primary utilization area is expected to be within the Great Lakes region.