

Management

Understanding site hydrology is important for managing stands of California bulrush. Bayou Lafourche Germplasm is a freshwater plant species with slight to moderate levels of salt tolerance. It will tolerate fluctuating water levels, but prolonged and elevated levels of salinity, poor water circulation, and high water temperatures will damage plantings.

Nutria (*Myocaster coypus*) have been known to damage new plantings of California bulrush. Nutria will excavate plants to feed on the roots. When they are present, well anchored wire cages maybe needed to allow plants to become established.

Availability of Plant Materials

Generation 1 (G1) plants materials for commercial nursery production are available from the USDA-NRCS, Golden Meadow Plant Materials Center, Galliano, Louisiana. Bayou Lafourche Germplasm California bulrush is a vegetative release and must be propagated as such. Seeds of Bayou Lafourche are not available and seeds are not to be used for plant increase or establishment of this release.

Where to Obtain Information

Contact your local USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service office for more information.

Visit our Plant Materials Program Internet site at to find more information on solving conservation problems using plants.

<http://Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov>

USDA-NRCS

Golden Meadow Plant Materials Center

438 Airport Road

Galliano, Louisiana 70354

Telephone (985) 475-5280

Fax (985) 475-6545

August 2007

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Bayou Lafourche Germplasm

California Bulrush



(Schoenoplectus californicus)

Golden Meadow
Plant Materials Center
Galliano, Louisiana

Bayou Lafourche Germplasm

California Bulrush

[*Schoenoplectus californicus* (C.A.Mey.) Palla]

Bayou Lafourche Germplasm is released as a select ecotype of California bulrush vegetatively propagated, (natural track).

Origin

Bayou Lafourche Germplasm California bulrush was collected in 1998 from a native stand in Lafourche Parish, Louisiana located near the town of Golden Meadow (MLRA 150). It was growing on Schriever clay (Sk) soil type where the average depth of water is 12 inches with inter-tidal influence.

Plant Description

Bayou Lafourche Germplasm is a native, herbaceous, rhizomatous perennial that forms dense vegetative colonies along shorelines, in open shallow waters, or on mudflats. It is an emergent wetland plant that spreads primarily by vegetative propagation, producing new stems from an extensive system of underground rhizomes. Bayou Lafourche Germplasm was selected for its plant vigor, height, stem density, and stem diameter. Plant height will range from 5-10 feet and can grow in relatively deep water (i.e. ≤ 36 inches).

Potential Uses

Bayou Lafourche Germplasm California bulrush is an important species for fresh and intermediate marsh habitats for controlling erosion along shorelines, canal banks, levee banks, and other areas of soil-water interface. It may be utilized for streambank and shoreline stabilization, wetland restoration and creation, wildlife habitat and water quality improvement.



Area of Adaptation

Bayou Lafourche Germplasm California bulrush is well adapted to freshwater and slight to moderate levels of salinity (less than 5.0 parts per thousand). It has performed well in field test and is anticipated to be broadly adapted for use in the southern and central portions of Louisiana, southeastern Texas and southern Mississippi. California bulrush is adapted to a wide range of soils from coarse sands to clays and mucks, and will tolerate fluctuating water levels.

Establishment

Bayou Lafourche Germplasm can be successfully established using container grown or bare root plant materials. Transplants should be planted as soon as possible in moist soil. The presence of a well developed rootmass and growing buds are critical to transplant survival. Transplants can be planted at water depths ranging from 1 to 24 inches, with an optimum planting depth of about 12 inches. Plants are normally planted on 5 foot to 10 foot centers, but spacing can vary according to the desired coverage. Under typical site conditions two rows planted 10 foot apart will provide adequate coverage. Plants within the two rows should be staggered on center so that plants alternate between spaces. It is not uncommon for plants to spread 8 to 10 feet in one growing season.

Planting sites where high wave energy is a problem may require the addition of plant anchors. Transplants should remain erect and should not be completely submerged after planting.

