USDA NRCS
United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Plant Materials Program

'Flageo'
Marshhay Cordgrass
[Spartina patens (Aiton) Muhl.]

A Conservation Plant Released by the USDA NRCS Jimmy Carter Plant Materials Center, Americus, Georgia

Flageo Marshhay Cordgrass on Low Beach Dune

'Flageo' marshhay cordgrass [*Spartina patens* (Aiton) Muhl.] was a 1990 vegetative release with Brooksville Florida PMC and Fort Valley State University.

Description
'Flageo' is a native perennial warm-season coastal grass. It produces erect stems usually less than 40 inches tall. Leaves are flat and revolute with serrated margins about 1/8 inch wide. It blooms in late summer and fall. However, very few viable seed are produced. It reproduces and expands from long rhizomes.

Source
'Flageo' was selected from a large collection of marshhay cordgrass ecotypes assembled from indigenous sites along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts from North Carolina to Texas.

Conservation Uses
'Flageo' is used to help stabilize low coastal sand dunes, wet interdune swales and certain high salt marsh areas. It can provide plant material for restoration of coastal areas devastated by Gulf and Atlantic hurricanes. In addition to coastal uses it has also been used on inland sites. It has stabilized highly erosive areas on deep inland sands, recreational lake shorelines, and catfish pond levees.

Area of Adaptation and Use
'Flageo' is salt tolerant and grows well on low sand dunes, interdune swales and high salt marshes.It is primarily adapted to the Gulf and Atlantic coastal and inland areas of the Southeastern U.S.

Establishment and Management for Conservation Plantings
Establish vegetative material in late winter to early spring in Alabama, Georgia and the Carolinas. Plant at the beginning of the rainy season in Florida. Plant potted or bare rooted stock with 5 to 10 stems each. Space plants 12 to 24 inches apart, depending on severity of the site. Put rhizomes 4 to 6 inches deep into moist soils or deeper in sandy substrates. On critical area planting, place one ounce of slow release fertilizer per plant at planting, or apply 200 to 300 pounds of 10-10-10 per acre when the plants begin actively growing. Apply 200 to 300 pounds of 10-10-10 per acre annually in June until full stands of vegetation are developed. Some sites will need to be mowed periodically to reduce the height of the stand. Sand dune sites must be crossed to reach the beach, therefore mechanical cross-over structures and fencing will need to be installed at selected points to provide access. This minimizes foot traffic and maintains the marshhay cordgrass stand. Some sites will require the implementation of an irrigation system to establish adequate root development. NRCS specialists can assist landowners with plans to properly manage this grass.

Flageo Marshhay Cordgrass Spreads by Extended Rhizomes

Ecological Considerations
This release does not have any particular resistance to disease or insects beyond those commonly found in the species. It spreads by rhizomes and routine management practices will be required to control weeds.

Plant Production
A fertile irrigated field of 0.25 acres can produce thousands of new plants each year. Apply 200 to 300 pounds of 10-10-10 per acre each spring to optimize production. A cool season prescribed burn is recommended to control certain weeds and produce a flush of new growth.

Availability
For conservation use: Plants will be available next year through Edwards Nursery/Drake Farms of Pinetops, North Carolina.


Flageo Marshhay Cordgrass Production Field

For more information, contact:
Jimmy Carter PMC 295 Morris Dr.
Americus, Georgia 31719, Phone:229-924-4499 , Fax 229-924-0013

http://www.plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov

Citation

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