

Description

Newberry Germplasm Indiangrass [*Sorghastrum nutans* (L.) Nash.] is a native warm season bunch perennial grass with short scaly rhizomes. It has an upright habit with culms up to 7 to 8 feet in height. The leaves have elongate blades to 2 feet long and .5 inches wide. Nodes have appressed hairs and internodes are glabrous. Flowers and seed are in an open panicle 5 to 14 inches long and 2 to 4 inches wide. Yellowish spikelets with prominent twisted awns appear in mid-September to early October. Dark brown seeds mature in mid-October to early November.



Development and Adaptation

Indiangrass is found throughout the U.S. except the far western states. Newberry

Germplasm was collected near Newberry South Carolina by members of the South Carolina Native Plant Society and employees of the U.S. Forest Service in South Carolina. It should be adapted to upland sites in the Southeastern U.S. but it is specifically adapted to upland piedmont sites in South Carolina. It can grow in nearly solid stands but it can also tolerate some competition from other native grasses and forbs on upland sites. It has been used by the U.S. Forest Service in several restoration projects.

Establishment and Management

Seedbed preparation should begin well in advance of planting. Prior to planting, the site should be firm and have accumulated soil moisture. Newberry Germplasm can be broadcast or drilled. **Planting rate:** For maximum ground coverage broadcast 10 pounds of pure live seed per acre or drill 7 to 8 pounds of pure live seed per acre. **Planting date:** Time of optimum planting can vary due to soils, landscape and elevation. Suggested planting dates range from early April to mid May. **Planting depth:** Under most soil conditions plant approximately ¼ inch deep. **Soils:** Newberry Germplasm is most adapted to moderately-well to well drained sites. **Fertilization:** Under low pH conditions apply enough lime to raise pH to approximately 6.0. Normally do

not apply nitrogen during establishment since this will encourage weed competition. **Management :** Under certain conditions herbicides may be needed to control invasive weeds. Read herbicide labels carefully before applying to prevent stand reduction. Mowing can be an effective management tool to reduce coverage of weedy plants especially invading hardwoods. During growing season do not mow lower than 6 to 8 inches and allow the stand to recover to approximately 1.5 to 2 feet tall before repeat mowing. Prescribed burning can be utilized to reduce hardwoods and recycle nutrients.



Conservation Uses

Uses for Newberry include erosion control, wildlife habitat improvement and native plant restoration especially on South Carolina National forests.

Availability

Seed of Newberry Germplasm indiagrass is being maintained by U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Forest Service Union South Carolina in cooperation with NRCS Jimmy Carter PMC.



For More Information

Jimmy Carter Plant Materials Center
295 Morris Drive
Americus, Georgia 31719
Phone: 229-924-4499
<http://plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/gapmc/>

OR Contact

Your local USDA Natural Resources
Conservation Service Office

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Natural Resources Conservation Service

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