



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

'Halifax' maidencane

Panicum hemitomon Schult.

A Conservation Plant Release by USDA NRCS Jamie L. Whitten Plant Materials Center, Coffeerville, MS



Maidencane

'Halifax' maidencane (*Panicum hemitomon* Schult.) is a cultivar released in 1974 by the USDA, Soil Conservation Service, presently the Natural Resources Conservation Service, in cooperation with the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station.

Description

'Halifax' is a native warm-season perennial aquatic or semi-aquatic grass that grows 2 to 3 feet tall. It produces many sterile shoots with overlapping sheaths. Leaf blades range from 1/4 to 1/2 inch wide and from 6 to 12 inches long. Panicle branches are erect, producing a spike-type seed head. None of the seed produced by Halifax has been found to be viable. It spreads from numerous, creeping rhizomes which allows it to form a dense vegetative mats.

Source

'Halifax' originated from a native stand of maidencane collected near Halifax, North Carolina. It was selected for its cold tolerance, rapid spread, and vigorous growth.

Conservation Uses

'Halifax' is recommended for shoreline erosion control on small lakes, ponds, irrigation reservoirs, channels and stream banks. It is also planted in constructed wetlands.

Area of Adaptation and Use



Native range of maidencane is from New Jersey to south Florida, west to east and southeast Texas. It grows on mineral clays to floating organic soils. Site preferences include stream banks, shallow depressions and marshes.

Establishment and Management for Conservation Plantings

'Halifax' is established from rhizomes planted in May or June. Rhizomes are planted into soft mud or in shallow furrows no more than two inches deep. Recommended spacing is one foot apart or less. If planted in furrows, cover the rhizome with soil. To ensure coverage and protection of newly constructed water impoundment levees, plant two to three rows of 'Halifax' with one foot spacing between rows. The first row should be planted one foot above the normal water surface. At establishment, broadcast five pounds of 13-13-13 fertilizer or its equivalent per 100 feet of planted row. No fertilizer is needed if planted on catfish pond levees or in constructed wetlands because nutrients in the water will generally supply adequate fertility for plant growth.

Ecological Considerations

Maidencane is highly palatable to livestock and cannot withstand heavy grazing. It is also intolerant of excessive mowing. Maidencane is a rapid grower and can form dense stands that can out compete other species. May become invasive in moist soils. Insects and diseases rarely cause problems. Control can be obtained by mowing, prescribed fire, or herbicides.

Seed and Plant Production

'Halifax' maidencane is propagated vegetatively. Large-scale production would require plantings around waterways where rhizome-harvesting equipment could have access. Approximately 150,000 rhizomes can be harvested from a 100 square foot area.

Availability

For conservation use: Available from specialized growers.

For seed or plant increase Available from specialized growers.

For more information, contact:

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Citation

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

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