

Description

‘Sumter Germplasm’ Soft Rush (*Juncus effusus* L.) is a native perennial herbaceous rush with short scaly rhizomes. Plant height ranges from 80 to 110 cm. Clumps of vegetation range from 20 to 40 cm wide. Culms are erect, hollow, terete, and range from 2 to 3 mm wide. Leaf blades are absent. Inflorescence is lateral and many flowered. Primary bract is erect, terete and extends well beyond inflorescence. Tepals of the flowers are brown in color. Flowers have 3 stamens. Dark brown colored seeds develop in capsules. Chromosome number is $2n=40$ or 42 . Flowers appear in mid-late summer and capsules appear in late summer-fall. It is classified as a FACW+ hydrophytic plant by National List of Plant Species That Occur in Wetlands: Southeast (Region 2).



It is listed as native to lower 48 states. Native populations occur in fresh water

marshes, shores, wet meadows, sloughs, and wet depressions.

Development and Adaptation

‘Sumter Germplasm’ Soft Rush is a native source identified release which has undergone no purposeful selection pressure. It is most adapted to the Georgia coastal plain. MLRA 133A and 153 B.

Establishment and Management

Constructed wetland sites should be shaped, disked, harrowed, and otherwise prepared for planting vegetative root stocks. It is recommended that the original topsoil excavated from the constructed wetland be stockpiled for later use as a soil amendment. Release water onto a site prior to planting to improve moisture conditions. **Planting rate:** Rootstocks can be planted to 2- 3 foot rows and 1-1.5 feet within rows for moderate coverage. **Planting date:** Losses from heat stress can occur when stock is planted in the hot summer months. Suggested planting dates extend from early April to mid-June. Rootstock and potted material can be planted by hand or with the aid of a modified tree planter. **Substrate:** many substrates are suitable for constructed wetlands establishment. Loamy soils are

especially suitable because they are friable allowing for easy rhizome and root development. However a fine-textured clay may limit root and rhizome growth. **Water level:** Apply water before planting to hydrate the soil. After planting the substrate should be saturated with pond water or other clean water sources to about 1 inch depth for four to five weeks. After the sixth week or when the plants show new and vigorous growth, water levels should be slowly and gradually increased to support upright growth. The plants should be allowed to become established before waste water effluent (especially animal waste) is discharged into the constructed wetland.



Conservation Uses

Uses for ‘Sumter Germplasm’ include residential septic systems and other small constructed wetlands for tertiary wastewater treatment.

Availability

Plant material of 'Sumter Germplasm' Soft Rush is being maintained at the Jimmy Carter Plant Materials Center in Americus, Georgia. Mepkin Abbey Nursery near Moncks Corner South Carolina is growing nursery stock for public consumption.



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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Juncus effusus L.



**Jimmy Carter
Plant Materials Center
Americus, Georgia**