Plant Fact Sheet

GULF BLUESTEM

Schizachyrium maritimum **(Chapman) Nash**

Plant symbol = SCMA3

Contributed by: USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Golden Meadow Plant Materials Center, Galliano, Louisiana

Photo provided by Gary Fine, NRCS ACES Program

Alternate Names
Seacoast bluestem

Uses
Conservation plant material for coastal beach dune enhancement and stabilization. Habitat for small mammals, shorebirds, and migratory birds.

Status
This species is ranked on the Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species state list as an S1 (extensive rarity and factors which make it especially vulnerable to extirpation), and a global ranking of G3 (very rare and local throughout its range).

Please consult the PLANTS Web site and your State Department of Natural Resources for this plant's current status (e.g. threatened or endangered species, state noxious status, and wetland indicator values).

Description
Gulf bluestem is a native warm-season perennial grass that spreads by seed and short rhizomes. Plants are rhizomatous and colonial, stems usually decumbent, glaucous, reddish, and flattened at the base, terminal inflorescences with stalked spikelets.

Found native to coastal and offshore islands of the Florida panhandle west to Louisiana.

Adaptation

Legend
🟥 Adaptation
🟨 Potential Use

Establishment
Gulf bluestem can be successfully established using container grown or bareroot plant materials. Vegetative propagules from plant division or lower stem nodal tissue are used for nursery production. Container grown or bareroot propagules should be planted on 2-5 foot centers on the primary dune ridge and back side and the more stable dune and swale areas behind the primary dune. Interspacing with other desirable dune species enhances habitat diversity and conservation effectiveness. Apply a blended fertilizer broadcast or slow release tablet or packet with each plant when planting. Gulf bluestem produces viable seed. The potential establishment of gulf bluestem by seed is being evaluated at the Golden Meadow Plant Materials Center in Galliano, Louisiana.

Management
No special management strategy is needed other than restricting traffic during the first year of establishment.

Plant Materials <http://plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/>
Plant Fact Sheet/Guide Coordination Page <http://plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/intranet/pfs.html>
National Plant Data Center <http://npdc.usda.gov>

Pests and Potential Problems
There are no pests of concern associated with this species.

Cultivars, Improved, and Selected Materials (and area of origin)
Timbalier Germplasm Gulf Bluestem is a tested pre-varietal plant materials release available from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Golden Meadow Plant Materials Center in Galliano, Louisiana.

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