

Description

'Flageo' marshhay cordgrass [*Spartina patens* (Ait.) Muhl] is a native perennial coastal grass. Flageo was selected from a large collection of marshhay cordgrass ecotypes assembled from indigenous sites along the coast from North Carolina to Texas. It was the first plant ever jointly released by the NRCS and Fort Valley State University. Marshhay cordgrass naturally occurs along the Gulf and Atlantic coasts of the United States. It makes primary growth during the summer months and limited growth the rest of the year. Marshhay cordgrass produces erect stems usually less than 40 inches tall. Leaves are flat to revolute with serrated margins and usually around 1/8 inch wide. It produces blooms in late summer and fall. However, very few viable seed are produced. It actually reproduces and expands from long rhizomes. Marshhay cordgrass is salt tolerant and often grows in pure stands in brackish to saline marshes. It also grows well on low sand dunes and interdunal swale areas of barrier islands.

Uses of Plant Material

Flageo is primarily used along the Gulf and Atlantic coasts of the Southeastern United States. It can be used to help stabilize low coastal sand dunes, wet interdune swales and certain high salt marsh areas. The use of Flageo can

provide plant material for restoration of coastal areas devastated by Gulf and Atlantic hurricanes. In addition to coastal uses it can also be utilized on inland sites. Plant specialists have successively stabilized highly erosive areas on deep inland sands, recreational lake shorelines, and catfish pond levees.



Flageo, like other marshhay cordgrass, can be utilized as a forage on adapted sites in coastal areas. When incorporated into a coastal fire management program marshhay cordgrass has provided forage for various livestock including cattle and horses.

Planting Procedure

Planting Date

Plant vegetative material in late winter to early spring in Alabama, Georgia and the Carolinas, and at the beginning of the rainy season in Florida.

Planting Rate

Use potted or bare rooted stock with 5 to 10 stems each. Space plants 12 to 24

inches apart, depending on severity of the site.

Establishment

Plant rhizomes 4 to 6 inches deep into moist soils or deeper in sandy substrates.

Fertilization

On critical area plantings, 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 achieved.



Maintenance

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 may need to be installed at selected points to provide access. This will minimize foot traffic and help maintain the marshhay cordgrass stand. Some sites may require the implementation of an irrigation system.

Availability

Breeder material of Flageo marshhay cordgrass is being maintained at the Jimmy Carter Plant Materials Center in Americus, Georgia. CNPS nursery in Milton Florida grows Flageo for commercial distribution.



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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Plant Materials Center
Americus, Georgia**