

NRCS Species for Plant Collections

Eragrostis trichodes

Scientific Name: *Eragrostis trichodes*
(Nutt.) Alph. Wood

Common Name: Sand lovegrass

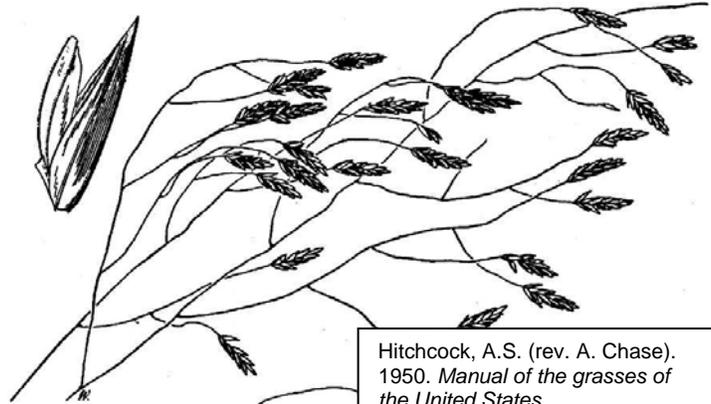
Morphological Characteristics:

Habit- native warm season perennial grass reaching 60-160 cm. tall; flowers July to December and sporadically in the spring; reproduces by seed.

Leaves- sheaths overlapping, pilose at throat, sometimes villous on back or papillose-villous on margins; blades glaucous except hairs above ligule, flat with an involute tip, 15-40 cm long and 1-8 mm wide

Inflorescence- Panicles oblong to ovoid, open, 35-55 cm. long and 7-30 cm. wide; branches ascending to spreading 7-20cm. long; Spikelets pedicellate, compressed, 4-10 mm long and 1.5-3 mm. wide, 4-18 flowered.

Fruit- caryopsis, cylindrical, about 1 mm. long.



Hitchcock, A.S. (rev. A. Chase).
1950. *Manual of the grasses of the United States*

Habitat and Range: Occurs in sandy prairies and open woods. Found in all regions of Texas except the Gulf Coast Prairies and Marshes.

Conservation Use:

Why collect this plant? Texas Plant Materials Centers have identified this plant as having potential benefits to the following conservation practice standards: 645 Upland Wildlife Habitat Management; 550 Range Planting; 393 Filter Strip; and 342 Critical Area Planting. Your assistance in collecting this plant helps support the NRCS conservation practice standards which are employed daily to conserve the natural resources of Texas!

Centers Requesting Seed:

E. Kika de la Garza PMC

How to Collect Seed

1. Identify native plant stands in your area. You can go to the following websites for helpful photos <http://plants.usda.gov> or <http://www.noble.org/imagegallery/index.html> or www.wildflower.org
2. Determine if seed is mature. Mature seed is typically dry and will easily separate from the seed head.
3. Hand strip mature seed by grasping the bottom of the seed head then gently pulling away from the base of the plant. Deposit seed in a brown paper sack. Collect seed from a minimum of 30 to 50 plants.
4. Label each collection as it is made so collections do not get mixed up. Information required includes: Collector's name, number of plants collected, location (parish, city, highway, GPS coordinates), site description (soil type, slope, plants growing in association).

5. Complete NRCS-ECS-580; Plant Collection Information Form and mail with collected seeds to the NRCS Plant Materials Center requesting the species.

E. Kika de la Garza Plant Materials Center
3409 N FM 1355
Kingsville, TX 78363

Helpful Tips

Look for superior plants that display differences in color, height, or forage abundance and record observations. Differences in growing site or location should be made into separate collections if they are separated by more than 1 mile between sites.

Other Photos: