



NRCS Species for Plant Collections

Paspalum distichum

Scientific Name: *Paspalum distichum*

Common Name: Knotgrass



1 Robert H. Mohlenbrock @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database



2 Steve Hurst @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database

Morphological Characteristics:

- native, perennial
- warm season
- grows in clumps or creeping along soil
- stands tend to be short lived and reproduces from rhizomes, stolons, and seed
- stems grow along the soil from 6-72 inches in length
- at nodes on the stem, roots and flowering stems emerge
- plant can cover a circle of a yard or more in diameter
- leaves are narrow, lance-shaped, or oval ½ to 1 ½ inches long
- flower stems will grow up to 18 inches tall
- flowers are 1/8 inch long and grow in clusters of two to three per stem
- color of flowers range from usually pink to red, green, or dull white
- seeds are oval to elongated, light colored, and taper to a point
- adapted to both wet and well-drained areas, frequently found in meadows, marshes, and ditches
- can tolerate high salinity and waterlogged environments
- most active in spring, summer, and fall with most seed production in late summer and fall

Conservation Use:

Why collect this plant? Texas Plant Materials Centers have identified this plant as having potential benefits to the following conservation practice standards: 327-Conservation Cover; 342-Critical Area Planting; 386-Field Border; 390-Riparian Herbaceous Cover; 393-Filter Strips; 512-Pasture and Hay Planting; 550-Range Planting; 560-Access Road; 562-Recreation Area Improvement; 643-Restoration and Management of Rare and Declining Habitats; 644-Wetland

Wildlife Habitat Management; 647-Early Successional Habitat Development/Management; 656-Constructed Wetland; 657-Wetland Restoration; 658-Wetland Creation; 659-Wetland Enhancement. The planting of Knotgrass can provide excellent food and cover benefits for wildlife and livestock as well as help conserve our soil. In western portion of Texas there is a need for locally adapted native (ecotypic) plant materials for use in restoration projects. Your assistance in collecting this plant helps support this effort and the NRCS conservation practice standards which are employed daily to conserve the natural resources of Texas.

Centers Requesting Seed:

USDA-NRCS/James E. "Bud" Smith Plant Materials Center – Knox City, Texas

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 bag and not in a plastic bag, because moisture will collect and mold seeds. 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, and GPS coordinates), site description (soil type, slope, and plants growing in association).
5. Complete NRCS-ECS-580; Plant Collection Information Form and mail with collected seeds to the NRCS Plant Materials Center below.

USDA-NRCS James E. "Bud" Smith Plant Materials Center
3950 FM 1292 Suite 100
Knox City, TX 79529-2514

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:



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