

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

NOTICE OF SOURCE IDENTIFIED GERMPLOASM RELEASE  
LEAF RIVER WOOLGRASS

The USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service announces the naming and release of source identified Leaf River woolgrass, *Scirpus cyperinus* (L.) Kunth. <sup>cv.</sup>

This woolgrass has been assigned the NRCS number 9062741.

ORIGIN:

Leaf River woolgrass was collected from a native stand of this species in Section 10, Township 8N, Range 14W in Jones County, Mississippi. This site is at an elevation of approximately 200 feet above mean sea level; it receives almost 60 inches of rainfall annually.

ECOTYPE DESCRIPTION:

Leaf River woolgrass is typical of woolgrass occurring in Mississippi. It is a coarse, tufted perennial herb with short rhizomes and basal leaves up to 135 cm long. Flowering stems are 1.5-2 m tall, obtusely triangular, leafy, and have stiff hairs on their angles. Culm leaves are 0.6-0.8 m long, 0.4-1.2 cm wide, somewhat folded, and have scabrous margins. Two or three leaf-like bracts subtend the inflorescence. The inflorescence is much branched and dense, with long drooping stalks and numerous bracts. Spikelets are solitary or in glomerules, sessile or with pedicels. Scales are reddish brown, glabrous, and wide-acute at apex. Achenes are pale tan, 3-angled, flat on one side and smooth. Perianth bristles 6, long, extended beyond scales, giving the inflorescence a reddish-brown, wooly appearance at maturity. Flowering begins in June; seed are mature by September.

SITE DESCRIPTION:

Leaf River woolgrass was collected near a small tributary stream that flows into the Leaf River. The site is wet to the surface, and has small areas of shallow surface water. There is evidence of some siltation of the site. The soil is listed on a soil map as Bigbee, which has a pH of near 4.5 in the upper layer. This soil contains a good percentage of sand and organic matter on much of the area of collection. The area appears to be subjected to temporary, shallow flooding.

Overall yearly average temperature at the site is 65.9°F, with an average high of 77.8°F and an average low of 53.9°F. The extreme high and low temperatures for the site are 106°F and 4°F.

Other plant species growing in association with this woolgrass were *Carex* spp.; grasses, including *Erianthus* sp. and *Paspalum* sp.; *Juncus* spp., including *J. effusus*; various broadleaf herbs and woody shrubs.

#### LITERATURE REVIEW:

Woolgrass is found in the area from Newfoundland westward to Saskatchewan, south and east to Oklahoma and east Texas, and east to Florida. It occurs around marshes and bogs; at the edge of ponds; in swamps and other wet areas (Godfrey and Wooten, 1979). It is an invader on wet, disturbed sites, and is tolerant of a wide range of hydrologic, soil, and chemical conditions (Wilcox, Pavlovic, and Mueggler, 1985). Woolgrass provides cover for wildlife (Thunhorst, 1993), and has been shown to uptake certain heavy metals from its growth substrate (Garten et al. 1974). Limited information regarding production requirements for woolgrass was found. Isley (1944) reported good germination following storing seed 6-12 months in tap water at 2-4°C, and then germinating them in light at a temperature of 30-32°C.

Personal experience has shown that younger plants with 1-2 years of growth yield better vegetative propagules than do older plants. Several good transplants with a good root system can be obtained from a single parent plant.

#### AVAILABILITY OF PLANT MATERIALS:

Limited quantities of Leaf River woolgrass propagules are available from the Jamie L. Whitten Plant Materials Center, Route 3, Box 215-A, Coffeeville, Mississippi 38922-9263.

#### REFERENCES:

- Godfrey, Robert K. and Jean W. Wooten. 1979. Aquatic and Wetland Plants of Southeastern United States - Monocotyledons. The University of Georgia Press, Athens, Georgia.
- Garten, Charles T. Jr., Briese, Linda A., Geiger, Richard A., Sharitz, Rebecca R., and Smith, Michael A. 1975. Radiocesium Levels in Vegetation Colonizing a Contaminated Floodplain. ERDA Symp. Ser. 36:489-497.
- Isley, D. 1944. A Study of Conditions that Affect the Germination of *Scirpus* seeds. Cornell Univ. Exp. Sta. Mem. 257, Ithaca, New York.
- Thunhorst, Gwendolyn A. 1993. Wetland Planting Guide for the Northeastern United States. Environmental Concerns, Inc., St. Michaels, Maryland.
- Wilcox, Douglas A., Pavlovic, Noel B, and Meuggler, Michelle L. 1985. Selected Ecological Characteristics of *Scirpus cyperinus* and Its Role as an Invader of Disturbed Wetlands. Wetlands 5:97-97.

Approved by:

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