

Spartina pectinata

Prairie Cordgrass

Preferred Water Depth and Inundation Tolerance

Prefers wet meadow conditions and saturated soil to 3 inches of inundation. Species will tolerate seasonal inundation.

Wildlife Value

Early growth provides some forage value to rodents and deer. Older growth is not readily grazed. Also provides food for waterfowl, marsh birds, and shore birds. Muskrats eat roots. Also used for wildlife cover and provides nesting habitat for marsh wren.

Application/Zone

Used in upper shoreline zones, for streambanks, upland slope buffer stabilization and in vegetated swales.

Availability, Establishment, and Maintenance

- Rhizomes and young transplants are used since seed viability can be very low.
- Preferred planting of rhizomes is 5 inches deep on 1-3 foot centers in April or May. Young transplants are most successful and widely used.
- A minimum of 1 gallon of water per linear foot per row or 1 acre inch of water should be applied after planting. Plants require saturated, not flooded, soil to maintain stand.
- Plantings may be burned annually to stimulate seed production. Competes well with reed canary grass when established.

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Mature Height

5-7 feet

Plant Type

Perennial grass

Indicator Status

Facultative Wet (+)

pH

4.7-7.8

Nutrient Load Tolerance

Moderate to high

Salt Tolerance

Low to moderate

Siltation Tolerance

Moderate

Flowering Color and Time

Greenish yellow

July to August

Light Preference

Full sun

Seeding Rate

.5 - 2.0 lbs/acre

