

Preferred Water Depth and Inundation Tolerance

Prefers 6-20 inches (Max: 24"/ Min: 0"). Species tolerates seasonal inundation, but may be killed by inundation of 1 foot or more of water for prolonged periods.

Wildlife Value

Provides waterfowl habitat. Muskrats will eat rhizomes. Wood ducks eat seeds. Medicinal plant with antibacterial compounds.

Application/Zone

Used in lower shoreline zones and vegetated swales. Rhizomes and roots form a mat in upper 4-8 inches of soil.

Availability, Establishment, and Maintenance

- Transplants, rhizomes and seeds are common and available from commercial vendors.
- Seeds may have dormancy requirement. About 90% germination is achieved by exposing freshly harvested seeds to cold, moist stratification for 60-90 days but seeds can be stored from 9 months to 2 years. Fall sowing provides better germination than spring by providing this cold treatment naturally.
- Rhizomes and transplants are generally more successful than seeds.
- Rhizomes are planted 2-5 inches deep. Root systems should be well-placed at a shoot base in the soil.
- Avoid flooding of newly established plants. Species requires drawdown until plants are established.
- For seed, some report 13 days are needed to germinate in a greenhouse without cold treatment. Survival rate in the field is 100%.
- Moderate rate of spread by rhizome, so use spacing of 1-3 foot centers.

Sweet Flag

Acorus calamus

Mature Height

2-6 feet

Plant Type

Perennial emergent herb

Indicator Status

Obligate

pH

5.9-8.8

Nutrient Load Tolerance

Low

Salt Tolerance

Low

Siltation Tolerance

Low

Flowering Color and Time

Green/brown

May 25 to June 30

Light Preference

Partial to full sun

Seeding Rate

.006 - .25 lbs/acre

