

# Vegas Germplasm

## Alkali Sacaton (*Sporobolus airoides*)

### *Native Grasses for Conservation*

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Alkali sacaton is a native, long-lived, warm-season, perennial bunchgrass reaching 20-40 inches (50-100 cm) in height. It is widely distributed throughout the U.S. western states and from northern Mexico to Alberta. Its elevation ranges from 2500-8000 ft (760-2440m) according to location.

It reproduces from seed and tillers, and blooms from April to May, producing seed from late summer until October. Plants produce abundant seed that remain viable for many years. Seed germination improves after a ripening period of several months.

Alkali sacaton is a facultative halophyte, having a broad tolerance to salinity. It grows in soil textures ranging from sand to clay, usually with low organic matter. It may grow in saline or nonsaline soils, often occurring in pure, dense, stands.

Vegas Germplasm is a composite of collections made at sites within Clark, Lincoln and Nye Counties in southern Nevada. It was developed for restoration of arid riparian areas in the Mojave Desert of southern Nevada.

Seed of Vegas germplasm is available through the Tucson Plant Materials Center or your local NRCS office.

