

Management

Control weeds in the first growing season by mowing over plants or cultivating between rows. Unlike other warm-season grasses, Florida paspalum has strong aggressive growth in the first year that can be enhanced with good moisture and nutrient availability. The application of nitrogen during establishment will allow for rapid growth that is highly competitive against weeds. Mowing or burning in early spring will allow light to reach the plants and soil to encourage early growth.

Adaptation

Florida paspalum's native range is from Pennsylvania and New Jersey south to Florida, west to Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas. It is commonly found growing in low, moist, grassy areas, forest openings, and disturbed areas such as road ditches on poorly drained soils as well as sandy well drained soils. Mid-Atlantic germplasm is a selected class release with limited testing for range of adaptability. It is recommended for use in the mid-Atlantic from New Jersey and Pennsylvania south to North Carolina.



Availability

For more information on availability and use of Mid-Atlantic germplasm Florida paspalum, contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Norman A. Berg National Plant Materials Center at the address below.

To request further information, contact:

USDA-NRCS
Norman A. Berg
National Plant Materials Center
Building 509, BARC-East
Beaver Dam Road
Beltsville, MD 20705
Phone: (301) 504-8175
Fax: (301) 504-8741

For information on-line:

Visit the Plant Materials Program or NRCS websites to learn more about using plants to address conservation problems.

<http://Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov>
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>

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Mid-Atlantic Germplasm Florida Paspalum

(Paspalum floridanum)



Released by the
Norman A. Berg
National Plant Materials Center
Beltsville, Maryland



Mid-Atlantic Germplasm Florida Paspalum

Mid-Atlantic germplasm Florida Paspalum (*Paspalum floridanum* Michx.) is a native warm-season grass recommended for soil stabilization, filter strips, meadow plantings, and wildlife food and cover. It is palatable in the leafy stage and may be used as summer forage especially in difficult soils. It may be used in place of reed canary grass. Florida paspalum seed is eaten by many birds including quail, doves, and turkey.

It is adapted to most soils in the eastern US from poorly drained to well drained soils. Florida paspalum has relatively large smooth seed with high germination and excellent seedling vigor. The ease of establishment and wide adaptation of Florida paspalum makes it a highly versatile grass.

Mid-Atlantic germplasm was released by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service as a selected class, pre-varietal release.

Description

Mid-Atlantic germplasm is a tall, warm-season perennial bunchgrass, ranging in height from 4 to 8 feet. It spreads from short, thick rhizomes or by seed. Leaves are 3/4" wide and 20" long, dark green with a bluish, chalky cast with a dense tuft of long hairs immediately above the ligule. The seed heads

have 2 to 6 branches with half-rounded smooth seeds that occur in pairs crowded along the branches.

Florida paspalum begins blooming in mid August and continues blooming and growing new shoots until the first frost. Seed begins maturing in mid September and continues into mid to late October. Florida paspalum produces many if not all of its seed through apomixes, meaning that the seed is a genetic clone of the seed producing parent.

Method of Selection

Mid-Atlantic germplasm is a composite of nine accessions collected from Maryland, New Jersey and Delaware.

These nine accessions were selected for uniform height and vigorous growth and were allowed to cross for two generations. Due to the high degree of apomixes, Mid-Atlantic germplasm Florida paspalum is likely both a non-genetic and genetic mix of the original accessions.

Propagation and Establishment

The seeds continue to mature for over a month, allowing for two harvests if the first harvest is cut early and above the later seed heads that tend to be somewhat shorter.

Florida paspalum can be seeded in a pure stand or in a mix of other species with a seeding depth of 1/4" to 3/4". The smooth

seed can be planted with most seed drills or broadcast seeded and packed into a firm seedbed. General seeding recommendations are 6 to 8 pounds PLS per acre for most applications. Seed are large with approximately 91,000 seeds/lb. After two to four years of storage, much of the initial seed dormancy is lost, and the seeds require little to no stratification for good germination. Mid-Atlantic germplasm has excellent seedling vigor and establishes well in the first growing season.

