



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Plant Materials Program

Koch Germplasm Prairie Sandreed

Calamovilfa longifolia (Hook) Scribn.

A Conservation Plant Release by USDA NRCS Rose Lake Plant Materials Center, East Lansing, MI



Koch Germplasm Prairie Sandreed

The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Michigan Association of Conservation Districts announce the release of a selected class ecotype prairie sandreed *Calamovilfa longifolia* called Koch Germplasm prairie sandreed in honor of Philip L. Koch (deceased), who was the agronomist and manager of Rose Lake Plant Materials Center while the prairie sandreed breeding and evaluation program was being conducted. It is a perennial, native warm-season grass intended for wind erosion control, dune stabilization and water quality improvement in coastal zones of the Great Lakes region and other sandy areas. It was released in August 2009.

Description

Koch Germplasm Prairie Sandreed is a perennial, native, warm-season grass that grows stalks from 2 to 6 feet tall with open, spreading panicles and scaly rhizomes. Flowers are wind pollinated. Plants flower by mid-summer and seed is mature by mid-autumn. As the name implies, prairie sandreed is adapted to coarse textured soils.

Source

Seed and vegetative materials of four parents were collected from native stands of prairie sandreed in coastal zones along Lakes Michigan and Huron.

Conservation Uses

The anticipated uses of Koch Germplasm prairie sandreed include wind erosion control, dune stabilization, and water quality improvement in coastal zones of the Great Lakes Region and other sandy areas.

Area of Adaptation and Use

This species is found throughout much of the central and northern United States, excluding New England. In the Great Lakes Region it grows in sand dunes and beaches of the Great Lakes including MLRAs 96-99. Plant Materials Program testing has shown that Koch Germplasm prairie sandreed is adapted to areas as far south as Kansas, as far west as North Dakota, and as far east as New York.

Establishment and Management for Conservation Plantings

Koch Germplasm can be established in conservation plantings by seed or vegetative means. Transplanting seedlings that have a healthy root system will improve establishment success. Establishment by seed is slow and can be risky in areas with high soil temperature, low fertility or where erosion is an immediate concern. Care should be taken to plant seeds no more than 0.5-1.0 inches deep.



A field of Koch Germplasm Prairie Sandreed

Ecological Considerations

No insect or disease problems have been observed on Koch Germplasm prairie sandreed. Prairie sandreed, as a species, can be susceptible to rust and leaf spot diseases

Seed and Plant Production

Koch Germplasm prairie sandreed produces seed annually. Seed matures in late September or early October. Seed maturity is not consistent among plants, so harvest timing is important for obtaining optimum harvest of mature seeds. Seeds can be harvested using a combine or seed brush stripper. Seeds have fluffy appendages that make seed cleaning difficult. Removing the appendages with a debearder will facilitate easier cleaning with a fanning mill.

Availability

Seed stock of Koch Germplasm prairie sandreed is maintained by the USDA-NRCS Rose Lake Plant Materials Center and made available to qualified parties for increase purposes.

For more information, contact:
Rose Lake Plant Materials Center
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For additional information about this and other plants, please contact your local USDA Service Center, NRCS field office, or Conservation District <<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>>, and visit the PLANTS Web site <<http://plants.usda.gov/>> or the Plant Materials Program Web site <<http://www.plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/>>



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