



Koch Germplasm prairie sandreed

Calamovilfa longifolia (Hook.)
Scribn.



Koch Germplasm Prairie Sandreed

The USDA-NRCS Rose Lake Plant Materials Center (PMC) and the Michigan Association of Conservation Districts released Koch Germplasm prairie sandreed, a selected-class ecotype of prairie sandreed (*Calamovilfa longifolia*), in 2009. Koch Germplasm prairie sandreed was named 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.

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

Uses for 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. Michigan NRCS technical specialists have determined that Koch Germplasm is useful or potentially useful with these Conservation Practice Standards:

- Conservation Cover (327)
- Critical Area Planting (342)
- Cross Wind Trap Strips (589C)
- Early Successional Habitat
- Development/Management (647)
- Field Border (386)
- Filter Strip (393)
- Forest Trails and Landings (655)
- Hedgerow Planting (422)
- Herbaceous Wind Barriers (603)
- Road/Trail/Landing Closure and Treatment (654)
- Streambank and Shoreline Protection (580)
- Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)

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. 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, with low fertility, or where erosion is an immediate concern. Care should be taken to plant seeds no more than ½- to 1-inch deep.



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

Koch Germplasm prairie sandreed, as well as other Rose Lake PMC releases, is available from commercial suppliers. Rose Lake PMC does not sell releases to the general public, although small quantities of seed are available to commercial seed or nursery growers for increase purposes.

For more information, contact:
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Citation

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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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