

Koch Germplasm Prairie Sandreed

The Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Michigan Association of Conservation Districts announce the release of a selected class ecotype prairie sandreed {*Calamovilfa longifolia* (Hook.) Scribn.var. *magna* Scribn. & Merr.}, 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.

Koch Germplasm prairie sandreed is a selected class release through the NRCS Plant Materials Program. It has been assigned the NRCS accession number 9086408. Current demand and conservation need for this material supports its pre-varietal release.

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.

Collection Site Information

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

Methods of Breeding and Selection

The release was developed through three cycles of phenotypic mass selection from four promising parental accessions collected as described above. Selection was for upright growth habit, seed production, and general vigor. Field trials at the Rose Lake Plant Materials Center showed Koch Germplasm prairie sandreed to have excellent vigor, resistance to lodging, and no early season disease or insect damage.

Ecological Considerations and Evaluation

Koch Germplasm prairie sandreed was determined “OK to release” when evaluated through the “Environmental Evaluation of NRCS Plant Releases” worksheet. Koch Germplasm prairie sandreed is native to the Great Lakes Region and should not differ in rate of spread, seed production, vigor, nor behavior from naturally occurring prairie sandreed in the Great Lakes Region.

Conservation Use

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

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.





Availability of Plant Materials

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. To request seed or further information contact:

Plant Materials Specialist

Phone- 517-641-7831

Fax - 517-641-4421

For Further Information

Visit our Plant Materials website for more information on using plants to solve conservation problems.

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



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