

NEW
RELEASE

PRAIRIE FARM CORDGRASS

*Marketed exclusively by Millborn Seeds, Inc.
Brookings, SD*



SPARTINA PECTINATA

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TALLER AND MORE BIOMASS

New Release

DESCRIPTION

Prairie cordgrass is a perennial grass that regrows from thick rootstocks each year. It reaches 10 feet tall, including flowering stalks. It is strongly rhizomatous, spreading rapidly and forming thick swards. Its dark-green color turns to yellow-gold in the fall. About 175,000 seeds weigh one pound.

USE

Prairie cordgrass grows where upland-adapted plants cannot survive. It provides incomparable year-round habitat for wildlife because it greens up early and its robust stems resist lodging from heavy rain and blowing snow. If harvested early, cordgrass makes fair-quality hay. Because it produces up to 10 tons of dry matter/acre, it has high potential as a biofuel feedstock.

ESTABLISHMENT

Prairie cordgrass can be established by planting greenhouse plugs or sowing seed in the spring or by drilling into dry ground in the late summer or fall.

In SD, this variety produces more biomass, grows taller, and is less susceptible to rust than "Red River" cordgrass.

Prairie cordgrass is a native grass known as ripgut, slough grass, and marsh grass. Its competitive nature and tolerance to flooding and alkalinity make it a highly desirable species to plant on low ground where it can outcompete undesirable plants, including thistles.

HABITAT/DISTRIBUTION

Prairie cordgrass grows naturally in shallow wetlands and on sub-irrigated ground, tolerating both spring flooding and late summer drought. It thrives on marginal land between crops and more permanent wetlands. Cordgrass is found in a wide variety of climatic conditions throughout the Great Plains in the U. S. and Canada.

AVAILABILITY

This is the first commercial offering of "Prairie Farm" cordgrass. The seed source is from a natural population in south-eastern SD. It is produced only on the EcoSun Prairie Farm.



Prairie Farm Cordgrass at EcoSun Farm