

FLORIDA PASPALUM

Paspalum floridanum Michx.

plant symbol = PAFL4

Contributed by: USDA NRCS National Plant
Materials Center



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USDA NRCS New Jersey

Alternate Names

Paspalum difforme Le Conte, *Paspalum floridanum* Michx. var. *glabratum* Engelm. ex Vasey, *Paspalum giganteum* Baldw. ex Vasey, *Paspalum glabratum* (Engelm. ex Vasey) C. Mohr

Uses

Livestock: Young leaves are palatable and nutritious becoming less so as plant matures.

Erosion Control: Paspalum is a versatile grass that readily grows on disturbed areas such as road ditches as well as on sandy or poorly drained sites. The bluish color of some foliage gives this species ornamental characteristics as well.

Wildlife: Quail, dove, and turkey all eat the large grain-like seeds.

Status

Please consult the PLANTS Web site and your State Department of Natural Resources for this plant's current status (e.g. threatened or endangered species, state noxious status, and wetland indicator values).

Description

Paspalum floridanum Michx., Florida paspalum, is a native warm-season (C₄) perennial bunch grass. It is tall, ranging in height from 3 to 6 feet and spreads from short, thick rhizomes or seed. Leaf sheaths and leaf blades range in color from dark green to a bluish, chalky cast with short coarse hairs or hairless. The leaf blades are firm, flat or folded, approximately 3/8" wide and 20" long, with a dense tuft of long hairs immediately above the ligule. The seed heads have 2 to 5 branches with half-rounded smooth seeds that occur in pairs. Seeds are crowded along the branches. Florida paspalum sets seed in late summer that matures in late fall.

Adaptation and Distribution

Florida paspalum's native range is from Pennsylvania and Delaware south to Florida, west to Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas. It is adapted to most eastern US soils and is commonly found growing in low, moist, grassy areas, and wood openings.

For a current distribution map, please consult the Plant Profile page for this species on the PLANTS Website.

Establishment

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 into a firm seedbed.

Florida paspalum establishes readily from seed with little to no stratification. Seedling vigor is good and establishes well in the first growing season. General seeding recommendations are 6 to 8 pounds PLS per acre for most applications. Seeds are large and light with approximately 91,000 seeds/lb.

Management

Follow normal native warm-season grass establishment procedures when planting Florida paspalum. Control weeds during the first growing season by mowing or spraying as often as necessary to prevent weeds from seeding out and to open up the seedbed to light. Florida paspalum establishes well even when mowed for weed control as low as a height of 4 to 6". While Florida paspalum has vigorous growth, it is not invasive to surrounding

fields. Established stands of Florida paspalum may be fertilized in accordance with soil tests as needed.

Cultivars, Improved, and Selected Materials (and area of origin)

No cultivars are currently available.

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For more information about this and other plants, please contact your local NRCS field office or Conservation District, and visit the PLANTS <http://plants.usda.gov> and Plant Materials Program Web sites <http://Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov>.

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