

FAIRCHILD TROPICAL BOTANIC GARDEN

## Pine Rockland Propagation Factsheet: Grasses

**Note: This information is intended for collecting material from your yard.  
It is illegal to collect plants from a natural area without landowner permission**



### SEED COLLECTION/PROCESSING

- Grass seed is typically available in the late summer and early fall, though you can also find seed after fires or soil disturbances.
- Collect only seed which falls off the plant easily when you gently run your fingers over it. Seed that does not easily separate from the plant is not ripe.
- Collect seeds into a paper bag or envelope. If you do not sow them immediately, store in an air conditioned room. Leave the bag open so any inadvertently collected seed predators will dry up.



### PROPAGATION FROM SEED

- Fill a flat or a wide, shallow pot with well-drained, high-quality potting soil, and moisten it well.
- Spread dry seed across the soil surface as evenly as possible. Some species with tiny ball-like seeds (*Paspalum*, *Eustachys*) or larger seeds without significant awns or hair (*Tripsacum*, *Schizachyrium*) do not need additional action.
- If seeds have awns (*Aristida*, *Sorghastrum*) or hairs (*Andropogon*), sprinkle a thin layer of soil or sand over the seeds to ensure they won't blow away, but do not bury the seeds (grass seed requires light to germinate).
- For *Eragrostis* or *Muhlenbergia*, use a scissors to cut up the inflorescence and add cut up pieces to the soil as described above.
- Keep the container in bright light under intermittent mist or with daily waterings. Reduce watering once germination begins.



### VEGETATIVE PROPAGATION

- Caespitose (clumping) species like *Tripsacum*, *Muhlenbergia*, *Andropogon*, *Paspalum*, *Aristida*, *Eragrostis* and *Sorghastrum* grown in containers can be divided once their roots fill out a gallon-size pot. Simply cut through the root ball and the center of the plant with a sharp, clean, serrated knife. Repot the separate plants into individual pots.
- Rhizomatous species like *Eustachys petrae* and *Schizachyrium rhizomatum* form roots along rhizome nodes. These can be separated from the parent with a sharp clean scissors or pruners and potted separately.
- Container plants should be kept in high quality well-drained soil. Water when soil begins to dry. Slow-release fertilizer pellets will increase vigor and color.