

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.