FAIRCHILD CONSERVATION TEAM - MANUAL OF RARE PLANT PROPAGATION AND HORTICULTURE

Muhlenbergia capillaris
Muhlygrass, Hairawn muhly

SEED COLLECTING

- **When to collect** – Harvest mature panicles in fall, winter, or early spring. A single panicle contains many seeds.
- **How to collect** – Gather mature, straw-colored panicles by hand. They should be easily removed from the plant, and sometimes may no longer be attached. Occasionally, loose panicles can be harvested where they accumulate at a fence or other barrier.
- **How to clean seed** – Seeds are extremely small and do not easily separate from the surrounding bracts, however it is not necessary to remove seeds from the bracts for propagation. Panicles/seeds do not need to be processed immediately. Store up to a few months in a paper bag in an air-conditioned room until needed.

PROPAGATION BY SEED

- **Pre-treatment** – None.
- **Sowing methods** – Sow seeds in potting soil or a 50/50 soil/crushed limestone mixture. Crumble or use scissors to cut up the entire dried panicle and sprinkle it over potting media. Multiple dried and crumbled panicles may be sowed in a community pot or a flat. Surface sow. Cover lightly; all grass seeds require light to germinate.
- **Expected time to germinate** –
- **Expected germination rate (%)** –
- **Path to finished product** – Separate individual seedlings when they are approximately 4-5 cm. in height and transplant to 3” pots. Add 2/3 teaspoon Florikan CRF 18-6-8 time release fertilizer (or equivalent product) at time of transplant. Finished plants are well-rooted, have many tillers, and are approximately 15-20 cm. in height. If advanced to 1-gallon pots, add 1 tablespoon Florikan CRF 18-6-8 time release fertilizer (or equivalent product) at time of transplant. Finished plants are often reproductive, well-rooted, have many tillers, and approximately 30-40 cm. in height.
- **Time to finish product** –
- **Expected quantity at end (% of seeds sown)** –

PROPAGATION BY CUTTINGS

- **Is species capable of propagation by cuttings?** Established, many tiller plants may be divided.

COMMENTS

Preferred propagation method is by seed. There is no known pest or disease issues related to production of muhlygrass.
Muhlenbergia capillaris streetside planting in Cutler Bay. Photo by Jennifer Possley/FTBG.