



Characteristics

**Conservation Plant Characteristics**

***Hesperostipa comata* (Trin. & Rupr.) Barkworth ssp. *comata***  
**needle and thread**  
**HECOC8**

**Summary**

Duration	Perennial	Federal T/E Status
Growth Habit	Graminoid	National Wetland Indicator
U.S. Nativity		

**Morphology/Physiology**

Active Growth Period	Spring	Fruit/Seed Conspicuous	Yes
After Harvest Regrowth Rate	Slow	Growth Form	Thicket Forming
Bloat	None	Growth Rate	Moderate
C:N Ratio	High	Height at Base Age, Maximum	
Coppice Potential	No	Height at Maturity	3
Fall Conspicuous	No	Known Allelopath	No
Fire Resistant	No	Leaf Retention	No
Flower Color	White	Lifespan	Moderate
Flower Conspicuous	No	Low Growing Grass	No
Foliage Color	Green	Nitrogen Fixation	
Foliage Porosity Summer	Dense	Resprout Ability	No
Foliage Porosity Winter	Moderate	Shape and Orientation	Semi-Erect
Foliage Texture	Medium	Toxicity	None
Fruit/Seed Color	White		

**Growth Requirements**

Adapted To Coarse Textured Soils	Yes	Moisture Use	Low
Adapted To Medium Textured Soils	Yes	pH, Minimum	6.6
Adapted To Fine Textured Soils	No	pH, Maximum	8.4
Anaerobic Tolerance	None	Planting Density Per Acre, Minimum	
CaCO3 Tolerance	Medium	Planting Density Per Acre, Maximum	
Cold Stratification Required	Yes	Precipitation, Minimum	5
Drought Tolerance	High	Precipitation, Maximum	20
Fertility Requirement	Low	Root Depth, Minimum	16
Fire Tolerance	High	Salinity Tolerance	None

Frost Free Days, Minimum	130	Shade Tolerance	Intolerant
Hedge Tolerance	None	Temperature, Minimum (°F)	-38

**Reproduction**

Bloom Period	Early Summer	Propagated By Cuttings	No
Commercial Availability	Routinely Available	Propagated By Seed	Yes
Fruit/Seed Abundance	Medium	Propagated By Sod	No
Fruit/Seed Period Begin	Summer	Propagated By Sprigs	No
Fruit/Seed Period End	Fall	Propagated By Tubers	No
Fruit/Seed Persistence	No	Seed Per Pound	137857
Propagated By Bare Root	No	Seed Spread Rate	Slow
Propagated By Bulbs	No	Seedling Vigor	Low
Propagated By Container	No	Small Grain	No
Propagated By Corms	No	Vegetative Spread Rate	None

**Suitibility/Use**

Berry/Nut/Seed Product	No	Palatable Browse Animal	Medium
Christmas Tree Product	No	Palatable Graze Animal	High
Fodder Product	Yes	Palatable Human	No
Fuelwood Product	None	Post Product	No
Lumber Product	No	Protein Potential	Medium
Naval Store Product	No	Pulpwood Product	No
Nursery Stock Product	No	Veneer Product	No

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