

Q: Can the seed be planted?

Beachgrass produces seeds in a spike-like panicle (cluster) about 10 inches long, usually visible in late July or August. We do not recommend using the seed because when seeds are shed in the fall, they dry out easily or are buried or blown away.

Q: If a root is not present, does this mean that the plant will not grow?

Roots usually are not evident but will develop from root nodules after planting. Each stem, therefore, must have nodes from which the roots grow.

Q: How do I care for the beachgrass after I pick it up from the district?

Beachgrass should be kept cool, moist and planted as soon as possible. The bottom of the stem, containing the root nodule where new growth will appear, must be protected from drying out. The stems are covered with wet moss and wrapped in nursery paper. Beachgrass will last 3-5 days in its bundles before being planted.

Q: How do you count the stems when packing bundles?

When you purchase your plants, they are packaged in bundles of ~100 or ~500 culms. They are counted using a volume tray, so the number is not exact. Planting 2-4 stems per hole is recommended, as some stems may die, and this will prevent open spaces. Pull multiple stemmed culms apart for an economical planting, taking care to keep the basal root nodule on the stem. For a more natural look, try keeping the culms together and using random spacing. Note: this will require more stems per square foot or stems per acre. Plantings take 3 years to fill in.

Q: Is beachgrass sold all year round?

No. Beachgrass is sold through the Mason-Lake Conservation District in late April and May and then again in September through November. We announce when we are accepting orders in our email newsletters or Facebook.

Q: Are the plants always green?

No. Plants usually start to green up late in the spring and become dormant and brown in color by late fall. Beachgrass purchased in April will still have last year's dead growth on it, we send the bareroot culms with this dead grass because it helps conserve moisture in the living part of the plant.

Q: Can you ship the beachgrass?

Yes. The beachgrass can be shipped through the United Parcel Service (UPS). It takes 1-3 days for it to arrive. Each box can hold from 1-3 bundles.



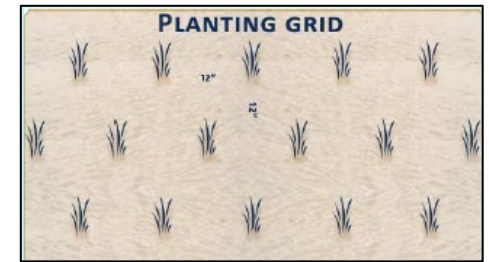
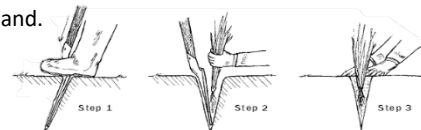
American Beachgrass: is native to the Atlantic Coast and the Great Lakes. It is more strongly rhizomatous, less sensitive to high temperatures and somewhat longer lived than cool season grasses like fescues and ryegrass. American beachgrass is a tough, coarse, upright perennial with hard, scaly, creeping rhizomes and dense, spike-like seedheads. Seed has low fertility and germination rates, necessitating hand-transplanting to colonize new areas. American beachgrass has proved to be the best plant for initial stabilization of moving sand. This "natural re-bar" is mobile throughout the sand structure, both horizontally through the growth of rhizomes and vertically through the soil profile, creating three-dimensional sand stabilization.

Suitability: Most eroding sandy areas and shifting sand dunes can be planted. Slopes steeper than 2 to 1 should not be planted until the slopes are shaped flatter than 2 to 1.

Planting: When planting extends over a period of several seasons, it is usually best to start on the side from which the sand and wind comes from (windward). On extensive areas, on-site assistance should be obtained from your local Conservation District to determine the best system of planting to use.

Enough moisture should be present so when an opening is made with a spade, the sand will not run back into the hole. A narrow tile spade or planting bar may be used. When planting, protect the culms from wind and sun so they do not dry out.

A planting depth of 6 to 10 inches is suggested so that the buds at the base of the stem do not dry out nor will plants blow out in a heavy wind. When planting by hand, firm the soil around the plants with our heel or hand.



Space stems about 18 x 18 inches for most plantings. On average, about 2,500 stems per acre are needed. Plant first on the wind-ward side, using a close 12 x 12 spacing in a band 2 to 3 rows wide. In the following rows space, the stems 18 x 18 inches.

A spacing of 24 x 24 inches may be used in areas not directly exposed to strong winds. Spacing of 12 x 12 inches should be used for steep or erosion-prone areas. The key to successful planting is planting when soil conditions are at their best, usually early in the spring or fall when soil moisture is present.

Fertilizing: Fertilization is very important to the successful establishment of beachgrass. In the absence of a soil test, about 25 pounds of 12-0-12 fertilizers per 1,000 culms is suggested. This is equivalent to 500 pounds per acre at the 20,000 culms planting rate. Fertilizer should be broadcast on the soil surface after planting. Most eroding sand sites are very infertile. Fertilizer will allow the new beachgrass plants to thrive. Note: Use phosphorus free fertilizers where available.

Site Management: A year or two after planting beachgrass, when all surface sand movement has ceased, adapted trees or grasses such as tall or red fescue may be planted right in the beachgrass. In the few instances where fertility level is so high that beachgrass would shade seedlings, this follow-up planting should be deferred until plants weaken enough to allow light to reach the ground.