

SALTY

Alkaligrass

BREEDER

Loft's Research

DESCRIPTION

Salty is improved alkaligrass *Puccinellia distans* developed for home lawns, amenity turf and roadside mixtures affected by saltwater spray, salt water intrusion, roadside salt, ice melt chemicals, soils with a naturally high pH or high salt content. This slow growing, fine textured cool-season native grass has a distinct upright bunch-type growth habit. Salty has a medium dark blue-green color that produces moderately dense turf which can tolerate a height of cut as low as ½ inch. Left unmowed, in non-maintained or native sites alkaligrass can reach a height of 12-16 inches.

APPLICATION

Salty is very compatible with many warm and cool-season native and introduced grasses, forbs and wildflowers. Also developed for permanent poly species turfgrass blends and mixtures containing slender creeping red fescue, strong creeping red fescue, chewing fescue, creeping bentgrass, Kentucky bluegrass, perennial ryegrass, tall fescue, bermudagrass and selected salt and high pH tolerant native grasses, forbs and wildflowers.

ADAPTATION

□ Adapted primarily for turf use along coastal seaboard of New England, Mid-Atlantic regions. Coastal landscapes along seaboard of California, Oregon and Washington also are well-suited for alkaligrass.

- Also adapted to inland regions such as Mid-West, Upper Great Plains, Rocky Mountains and Western Inter-mountain areas.
- Superior tolerance and performance in moist saline soils.
- Tolerates areas in the cool temperate regions of North America which are exposed to full sun with moderately hot summers. Excellent cold hardiness and retains color well into the fall season.
- Alkaligrass is native in the U.S. and serves as a component in native grass mixtures.
- Withstands soil pH of 8.0 and higher.
- Mulch may be used to aid in the stabilization of the seeds in the event of uneven moisture conditions soil slope.

SEEDING

Date: Salty can be seeded in spring or fall when soil temperatures are 60°F or higher. However, if spring seeding should be planned so that the plants will be well-established before the warm months of summer. Alkaligrass, like many native grasses is slow to germinate and establish requiring 10-15 days prior to germination.

Rates: 2-3 lbs./1,000 ft.sq. or 80-120 lbs./acre. Seed count of Salty is approximately 2,000,000 seeds per pound and dependent on year of harvest, location of production and seed production practices.

Depth: Sow at ¼ to ½ inches.

USES OF SALTY

- Shorelines: As a monostand or in a mixture with other cool-season grasses in areas adjacent to shorelines and adapted inland regions.
- Wildflowers: As a nursegrass or companion crop in

TURF CHARACTERISTICS

Growth Habit	Estab. Rate days	LHC Tol. ½"	Mowing Freq.	Traffic Tol.	Thatch prod	Comp Mix	N. Req.	Shade Tol.	Cold Tol.	Drought Tol.	Et rate mm/day	Endophyte	Salinity Tol. mmhos
Bunch	Slow 10-15	Good	2x Month	Poor	None	Good	Low 2-3 lb*	Poor	Good	Good	Low 6-7	No	>30 Excell.

*LHC=low height of cut, ET=evapotranspiration, N=nitrogen *per 1,000 ft²; rates may increase or decrease based on location, soil type, irrigation practices, desired turf quality, humidity & other abiotic and biotic factors.*



wildflowers planting along coastal regions or in alkaline soils. Serves as a soil stabilizer in saline soils which typically would be difficult for other cool-season grasses to persist.

- **Roadsides:** As a component in roadside or highway DOT mixtures. Persists along roadsides where high accumulation of salt from repeated wintertime applications have adversely affected growth of turf in the nearby adjacent areas.
- **Airports:** As a component in grass areas adjacent to airport runways. Alkaligrass tolerates the ice melting chemicals and salt used along runways.
- **Naturalized areas:** As unmowed stands or in naturalized plantings in out of play areas along golf course, in coastal shoreline regions or in alkaline soils high in pH.
- **Golf courses:** As a companion grass in golf course fairway, tee or rough mixtures.
- **Wetlands:** As a component in seed mixtures for wetland areas.

Water use: Salty and other native grasses are recognized as low water users with ET rate of 6-7 mm per day. Lower mowing heights, limited soil nitrogen and infrequent but deep soil profile irrigation practices will help reduce water use.

Mowing height: Salty recommended mowing height for permanent turf in blends and mixtures is 1/2-3 inch. It can be left unmowed and will reach plant height of 12-16 inches and may produce attractive inflorescences (seed heads) in both spring and fall.

Weed Control: From NCSU Pest Control Recommendations for Turfgrass Managers 2004. In established turf for general broadleaf control: 2, 4-D+dicamba, 2, 4-D+MCP, 2, 4-D+MCP+dicamba, 2, 4-D+2, 4-DP and others. Pre-emergent herbicides to control annual grassy weeds in established turf: benefin (Balan), bensulide (Pre-Far), dithiopyr+trifluralin, pendimethalin (Pre-M), prodiamine

CULTURAL PRACTICES

Soil Preparation: Prepare firm seedbed free of clods, sticks and vegetative debris. Seed should be in contact with soil. Salty prefers well-drained loamy soils similar in every respect to Kentucky bluegrass and many fine fescue species. Alkaligrass does not like poorly drained high bulk density soils.

pH: Soil should be slightly alkaline (7.0 -8.0) for favorable growth. Low pH soils (acid) often contribute to yellow chlorotic leaf color and poor tillering and shoot growth.

NPK requirement: Like many native grasses Salty requires moderately low rates of available soil nitrogen to maintain proper basal tillering and growth.

Approximate Salt Tolerance of turfgrass species

turfgrass species	Salt tolerance mmhos/cm	growth
Colonial Bentgrass	<3	sod-forming grass
Kentucky Bluegrass	<3	sod-forming grass
Poa Trivialis	<3	sod-forming grass
Buffalograss	<3	sod-forming grass
Hard Fescue	<3	bunch grass
Sheep Fescue	<3	bunch grass
Blue Gamma	3-6	bunch grass
Chewing Fescue	6-7	bunch grass
Smooth Bromegrass	6-8	sod-forming grass
Crested Wheatgrass	10	weak sod-forming grass
Tall Fescue	11	bunch grass
Perennial Ryegrass	11	bunch grass
Strong Creeping Red Fescue	14	sod-forming grass
Creeping Bentgrass	15	sod-forming grass
Slender Creeping Red Fescue	22	sod-forming grass
Bermudagrass	28	sod-forming grass
Zoysia Grass	28-30	sod-forming grass
ALKALIGRASS "SALTY"	>30	bunch grass



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