Casco Cove Germplasm beach lovage
*Ligusticum scoticum*
Selected Class Release “Natural”

Uses: Revegetation Throughout Coastal Alaska

Background Information
*Ligusticum scoticum* is in the carrot (Apiaceae) family. Another common name for it is Scottish licorice-root.

Beach lovage is a perennial. Once established it can live for many years. It is primarily found in coastal meadows where it tolerates salt spray.

Along the sea coast look for beach lovage in crevices where rocks have eroded, with soils formed. Other plants found in this type of site are seaside plantain, beach wildrye, and scurvy grass.

Growth
Beach lovage is an herb with thick stems and divided, almost fleshy leaves. Its flower is called an umbel. White to pink flowers bloom in the summer. Its roots are fleshy.

Distribution
*Ligusticum scoticum* is native to Alaska along the sea coast. It can be found in many sub-arctic countries. In the continental United States it is found in Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island. It is listed as endangered in Connecticut and New York.

Interesting Note:
Beach lovage can hybridize with deadly water hemlock. Care needs to be taken to identify it correctly and not use it internally (Kari, 1995).

The Dena’ina Indians of Southcentral Alaska call it *bidrushga* or *pidrushga*. These words are of Russian origin, suggesting the people may have learned the use of the plant from the Russians (Kari, 1995).

Casco Cove Germplasm beach lovage
Plant Identification Number: 9097734

Casco Cove Germplasm beach lovage was collected on Attu, one of the Aleutian Islands in Alaska. It was collected in 1993 by Stoney Wright of the Alaska Plant Materials Center.

The seed from the parent (Casco Cove) plant is grown and harvested at the Plant Materials Center and by other seed growers.

This plant can successfully grow on highly eroded slopes under maritime conditions.

Alaska Plant Materials Center
Serving Alaska’s needs in production of Alaska native plants

July 17, 2007
Casco Cove Germplasm beach lovage for Alaska revegetation purposes

This interesting plant can grow in many locations, but prefers sunny, well-drained soil. As its name implies, beach lovage can withstand salt sprays from the ocean.

As a perennial, beach lovage has thick roots which last for years. It is a good choice for places that are eroded with difficult slopes. Although the main parts of the plant die back in autumn, the roots survive throughout the winter. This plant can be increased from root cuttings.

To produce Casco Cove Germplasm beach lovage

Beach lovage can be direct-seeded in either late fall or spring for a mature plant to form by the end of the summer.

Casco Cove Germplasm beach lovage seed should be planted 1/4 inch deep. The seeds germinate well in either dark or light as long as they are kept moist (Plants for a Future, 2005).

References


Peggy Hunt & Stoney Wright
State of Alaska
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