

Northern Sea Oats – *Chasmanthium latifolium*

By Talena Stewart and Wade Alexander – HORT 461 – Advanced Landscape Design

Latin name: <i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i>	Texture: Coarse ¹⁹
Common name: Northern Sea Oats	Growth rate: Medium ¹⁹
Flowers: None	Light: Full sun to part shade ¹²
Fruit: Flat, drooping seed-heads ¹²	Moisture: Medium to wet ¹²
Height & Width: 2-5 feet tall and 1-2.5 feet wide ¹²	Soil*: Average, fertile, well-drained, acidic soil. Can tolerate poor soils ¹²
Type: Ornamental grass ¹²	Zones: 3-8 ¹²
Habit: Clump forming and upright ¹²	Origin: Middle and Eastern United States ¹⁶
Wetland indicator category**: FAC, FACU ¹⁷	Ecosystem benefits: Fruits provide food for small wildlife and shelter for insects ¹⁰

(Numbers identify sources listed)

Features: A smaller ornamental grass with fall interest due to flat, drooping seed-heads¹⁹.

Siting: Place this grass in an area with moderately fertile soil that is very moist and in a slightly shaded location¹⁹.

Care: Plant crown at soil level¹⁸. At planting, water the roots and surrounding area slowly and deeply. Keep soil moist until plant is established, then apply enough water to thoroughly moisten the root zone when the soil is dry or during drought. Modify water recommendations to reflect site drainage and rainfall. Apply 3" of mulch over the

planted area. Do not allow mulch to touch the plant stems¹⁸. Cut back to the ground in early spring¹².

Pests: Plants are relatively pest resistant if cultural preferences are met.

This plant does not appear on the following invasive plant lists on (2/9/15):

X USDA SC Invasive Plant Species Web site at <http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/plants/main.shtml>

_X_SC Exotic Plant Pest Council Web site at <http://www.se-eppc.org/southcarolina/>



Image source:

http://www.pittstate.edu/departments/herbarium/grasses/Chasmanthium_latifolium_BroadLeafWoodOat.dot

*Soil pH is determined using a professional soil test. Contact your Clemson University County Extension service for assistance – www.clemson.edu/extension/. Click on "local offices".

**2012 Plant Wetland Indicator categories (quantitative derived) <http://plants.usda.gov/wetinfo.html>

Indicator Code

OBL
FACW
FAC
FACU
UPL

Indicator Status

Obligate Wetland
Facultative Wetland
Facultative
Facultative Upland
Obligate Upland

Comment

Almost always is a hydrophyte, rarely in uplands
Usually is a hydrophyte but occasionally found in uplands
Commonly occurs as either a hydrophyte or non-hydrophyte
Occasionally is a hydrophyte but usually occurs in uplands
Rarely is a hydrophyte, almost always in uplands

Sources:

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[17] USDA. *Plant wetland indicator status*. (n/d). Retrieved from <http://plants.usda.gov/wetland.html>

[18] Vincent, E., Environmental horticulturist Clemson University, personal communication.

[19] Stewart, T., Horticulture student at Clemson University, personal knowledge.