

## Pine Rockland Plant Factsheet: *Grasses*

The globally imperiled pine rockland ecosystem of south Florida supports over 140 species of grasses. This means that a third of all plants present in pine rocklands belong to the grass family.

**Interesting fact:** grasses are an essential source of water and nectar for pollinators.

We greatly encourage planting at least 3 grass species in your pine rockland stepping stone garden.



*Schizachyrium gracile*

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### Grass Species Recommendations for Your Pine Rockland Stepping Stone Garden

- *Eragrostis eliottii*
- *Muhlenbergia capillaris*
- *Schizachyrium gracile*

\*To find nurseries that grow native plants visit [www.fairchildgarden.org](http://www.fairchildgarden.org)

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### Planting and Maintenance of Pine Rockland Grasses

**Planting:** Select a sunny location that receives 6-8 hours of sun each day. Dig a hole large enough to bury the entire root ball. Remove the plant from the pot and place into the hole straight and upright. Back fill the soil around the root ball. Be sure that all roots are covered with soil, yet avoid planting too deeply.

**Watering:** Water heavily at the time of planting and follow the recommended schedule below. You may not need to water as much in the summer when rain is abundant as you would in dry months.

#### Recommended watering schedule for your pine rockland grasses:

**Week 1-3:** water every other day.

**Week 4-8:** water every third day.

**Week 8-6 months:** water once a week

**After 6 months:** Your plants should be established and you will not have to water again except during extreme drought.

**Pruning:** Prune grasses back to 6 inches at the start of the rainy season (May-June). Trim away dead leaves and flowering stems at the start of the dry season (Oct-Nov). Do not prune again until the following wet season.

**Fertilizing:** Since native pine rockland grasses originate from a nutrient-poor ecosystem they do not require fertilizer.

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### How Can YOU Help Conserve Our Remaining Pine Rocklands?

1- Join the Connect to Protect Network

2 - Support prescribed fire in pine rocklands

3 - Encourage friends and family to plant pine rockland plants

To join the Connect to Protect Network or to learn more, please visit [www.fairchildgarden.org](http://www.fairchildgarden.org)