**Uniola paniculata**

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**Introduction**

Sea-Oats once blanketed the coastal landscape along the southeastern United States from North Carolina to south Florida (Fig. 1). Now they are endangered. They were the primary dune stabilizer and will grow right up to the high tide mark along the beach. Plants spread by means of underground rhizomes. Each plant develops a showy inflorescence about 5-feet-tall. The oat-like fruit persists on the plant giving the plant a nice texture as the wind blows. Existing plants should be saved wherever possible, and planting should be encouraged along the beaches.

**General Information**

- **Scientific name:** Uniola paniculata
- **Pronunciation:** yoo-NYE-oh-luh pan-nick-yoo-LAY-tuh
- **Common name(s):** Sea-Oats
- **Family:** Gramineae
- **Plant type:** herbaceous; ornamental grass
- **USDA hardiness zones:** 7B through 11 (Fig. 2)
- **Planting month for zone 7:** year round
- **Planting month for zone 8:** year round
- **Planting month for zone 9:** year round
- **Planting month for zone 10 and 11:** year round
- **Origin:** native to Florida
- **Uses:** mass planting
- **Availability:** somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the plant

**Description**

- **Height:** 5 to 8 feet
- **Spread:** 1 to 2 feet
- **Plant habit:** upright
- **Plant density:** open
- **Growth rate:** moderate
- **Texture:** fine

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

**Foliage**

**Leaf arrangement:** most emerge from the soil, usually without a stem

**Leaf type:** simple

**Leaf margin:** entire

**Leaf shape:** linear

**Leaf venation:** parallel

**Leaf type and persistence:** evergreen

**Leaf blade length:** 12 to 18 inches

**Leaf color:** green

**Fall color:** no fall color change

**Fall characteristic:** not showy

**Flower**

**Flower color:** white

**Flower characteristic:** spring flowering; summer flowering

**Fruit**

**Fruit shape:** oval

**Fruit length:** .5 to 1 inch

**Fruit cover:** dry or hard

**Fruit color:** brown

**Fruit characteristic:** persists on the plant

**Trunk and Branches**

**Trunk/bark/branches:** typically multi-trunked or clumping stems

**Current year stem/twig color:** not applicable

**Current year stem/twig thickness:** thick

**Culture**

**Light requirement:** plant grows in full sun

**Soil tolerances:** acidic; alkaline; sand;

**Drought tolerance:** high

**Soil salt tolerances:** good

**Plant spacing:** 24 to 36 inches
Other

Roots: not applicable
Winter interest: no special winter interest
Outstanding plant: plant has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more
Invasive potential: aggressive, spreading plant
Pest resistance: no serious pests are normally seen on the plant

Use and Management

You could not find a more drought tolerant plant for along the coast. Plant Sea-Oats several feet apart to stabilize dunes along the beach. It is illegal to collect plants from the wild without special permits. Place Sea Oats in an area of the landscape that receives full sun. This plant may be grown throughout Florida.

Pests and Diseases

There are no known problems growing Sea Oats.