Commercial Suppliers of Sea Oats in Florida

Panhandle
1. Biophilia Nature Center & Native Nursery
28. Coastal and Native Plant Specialties, Inc.
29. Dune Doctors
30. Rancho la Orquidea
31. Southern Native Plant Specialties, Inc.
32. The Garden Gate
33. The Gourd Garden

East Coast
2. Maple Street Natives
3. Plant Creations, Inc.
5. Native and Uncommon Plants
9. Horizon Nursery
19. Green Images/Native Landscape Plants
20. Liner Farms, Inc.
21. Boynton Botanicals
22. Coastal Growers, Inc.
23. Hypoluxo Growers
24. Mesozoic Landscapes, Inc.
38. Lukas Nursery
39. Southern Horticulture
40. Beeman’s Nursery, Inc.

West Coast
4. R Nursery
6. Hickory Hill Nursery
7. Hollies Farms & Gardens
8. Treemart
10. All Native Garden Center & Plant Nursery
11. Pine Breeze Nursery
12. SCNF Native Plant Nursery
13. Green Seasons Nursery
15. Just Native Plants
16. Native Plant Brokerage
17. Whisper Palms
25. Central Florida Native Flora
26. Environmental Equities
27. Wilcox Nursery
34. Aquatic Plants of Florida
35. EarthBalance
36. Florida Native Plants, Inc.
37. Sandy Shore Nursery

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Sea Oats

Perhaps you have seen the small armies of volunteers, crouched on hands and knees, armed with garden shovels, craning slowly across the coastal dunes. They're digging in to replant Florida's coastline, eroded by the pounding of tropical storms, hurricanes, and even some of the millions of beachgoing visitors. Planting native vegetation like sea oats helps form and maintain sand dunes, critical to controlling beach erosion.

Sea Grant Extension agents help to coordinate, organize and educate the corps of volunteers involved in planting and dune stabilization efforts. There are also a number of environmental restoration companies that work with coastal municipalities on large-scale restoration efforts. Finding enough plants to meet the increasing demand for dune restoration can be a challenge. Instead of relying upon the tight supply of sea oats grown from recovered seed, a Florida Sea Grant researcher has developed a commercially viable technique for producing many sea oats genotypes, especially those that can root quickly, flower, set seed and grow under constant exposure to wind-blown sand, saltwater, heat, drought and nutrient-poor soil.

Mike Kane, Professor and environmental horticulturist at the University of Florida, says that using nursery-propagated sea oats is the most effective way to control erosion in the southeast United States. Commercial suppliers of sea oats provide the best planting materials, suited for coastal restoration efforts and to include in native plant gardens.