

# PROPAGATION OF TIDAL MARSH SPECIES NATIVE TO THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY

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*Heimbinder, E.; Young, B. 2002. Propagation of Tidal Marsh Species Native to the San Francisco Bay. In: Dumroese, R.K.; Riley, L.E.; Landis, T.D., technical coordinators. National Proceedings: Forest and Conservation Nursery Associations—1999, 2000, and 2001. Proceedings RMRS-P-24. Ogden, UT: USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station: 232. Available at: <http://www.fcnet.org/proceedings/2000/heimbinder.pdf>*

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Of the original tidal salt marshes around the San Francisco Bay, only about 5% remain. There have been many mitigation projects undertaken in this bay over the last 10 years. Depending on funding, projects have simply regraded the mudflats to provide habitat and some projects have included seeding or planting of native halophytic plants. However, most of these projects in which planting was done have included only the 8 or 10 most common species. The intact remnant marshes contain a diverse flora of 30 to 35 species. Monitoring of these projects has shown that the other uncommon but critical habitat species have not emigrated through natural processes into these areas. It is still salt marsh and provides valuable habitat but they could be a richer more diverse plant community.

At Crissy Field at the north tip of San Francisco, the Golden Gate National Recreation Area wanted to recreate a small portion of the original

200 acre salt marsh. Because only 20 acres were being recreated, a concerted effort was made to reintroduce every species for which a historic record could be found. Plantings in the winter of 1999-2000 included 15 species of native salt marsh plants that had not been previously grown in horticulture.

Germination pre-treatment experiments were performed for each species. These results will be reported along with seed collection and growing and planting tips for 20 salt marsh species grown for the first year at Crissy Field salt marsh.

**Note:** A complete paper can be found in the following publication:

Heimbinder, E. 2001. Revegetation of a San Francisco coastal salt marsh. *Native Plants Journal* 2(1): 54-59.

Also available at:

<http://www.nativeplantnetwork.org>