



# Ninilchik Germplasm nootka alkaligrass

## *Puccinellia nutkaensis*

### Selected Class Release “Natural”

**Uses: Coastal Revegetation**  
**Southwest, Southeast, and Southcentral Alaska**

#### **Background Information**

*Puccinellia nutkaensis* is a common grass found in the nooks and crannies of rocks and boulders in the tidal zone.

Since this is a grass of the seacoast and salt marshes, it grows naturally in salty soil, requires lots of water to grow, but does not like to be submerged (USDA, 2004).

Plants that coexist with it, and yet do better in submerged, more salty areas, are *Carex lyngbyaei* and *Poa eminens* (Snow et al., 1984).



Map from Hultén, 1968.  
Used with the permission of Stanford University Press.



#### **Distribution**

According to Welsh (1974) *Puccinellia nutkaensis* is the grass found in the tidal zone in Southcentral and islands in South Alaska. It is also found in Washington State.

Ninilchik Germplasm nootka alkaligrass seed is maintained by the Alaska Plant Materials Center for commercial production.

#### **Ninilchik Germplasm nootka alkaligrass** *Plant Identification Number: 9097742*

Ninilchik Germplasm nootka alkaligrass was collected near Ninilchik, Alaska, by Stoney Wright in 1996 (Wright, 2006). Ninilchik is located on the coast of Cook Inlet between Kenai and Homer.

This native grass is a Selected Class Release by the Alaska Plant Materials Center (PMC). This means it has been grown and harvested at the PMC in Palmer, Alaska, and continues to preserve its excellent performance.

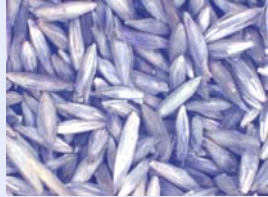
Ninilchik Germplasm nootka alkaligrass is recommended for use in revegetation mixes for stabilizing disturbed areas along the coast of Alaska.



# Ninilchik Germplasm nootka alkaligrass

## Ninilchik Germplasm nootka alkaligrass for Alaska Revegetation Purposes

Ninilchik is a grass for use in revegetating disturbed and eroded coastal grasslands. It can withstand cold temperatures, saline conditions, and occasional total submergence by tides.



*Puccinellia nutkaensis* seed.  
~ 1,371,867 seeds per pound



### To Produce Ninilchik

Ninilchik is produced with traditional farm equipment. It needs a moist soil for establishment. Plant the seeds approximately 1/4 inch deep.

New seedlings have rapid seed germination and excellent seedling vigor. It takes two years for the crop to produce seed. Weed control and irrigation enable good field performance.

Seed can be harvested and cleaned easily with normal mechanical equipment.



*Ninilchik Germplasm nootka alkaligrass*  
in field production at the  
Alaska Plant Materials Center, Palmer.

### Interesting Note:

A leafhopper (*Macrostelus fascifrons*) has become ecologically isolated and adapted to living its entire life on *Puccinellia nutkaensis* in the icy waters of the tidal flats in Glacier Bay, Alaska. It does not move from the grass even when submerged with the tide (Delong, 1970).

### References

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