

## Pink Microsteris

### (*Microsteris gracilis*)



**Range:** Washington and Oregon, also common in Andes in South America

**Climate, elevation:** Low to Mid elevations

**Local occurrence:** Very common in eastern Washington on dry slopes, and in disturbed areas, including burned areas. Bloom Feb-May

**Habitat preferences:** Dry to moist slopes

**Plant strategy type/successional stage:** Often is the first plant to come up in disturbed areas. Seeds can bank for a long time in soil.

**May be collected as:** Collected as seeds in mid summer.

**Seed germination:** 2 weeks of cold stratification 35-40 F (Bartow, 2004)

**Seed life:** Seeds can remain viable for a few seasons.

**Recommended seed storage conditions:** Dry seeds to a few % moisture, and store in cold dry environment.

**Propagation recommendations:** Propagate by seed.

**Soil or medium requirements:** Non soil medium- peat based with plenty of aeration, to simulate natural preference (Bartow, 2004).

**Installation form:** Propagate and plant from cone containers, as they are less expensive and larger containers are not necessary.

**Recommended planting density:** There is not necessary planting density, however *gracilis* can spread rather quickly, and is often described as behaving like a weed.

**Care requirements after installed:** Water well when first planted. It will be fine after that, as it is a hearty plant.

**Normal rate of growth or spread; lifespan:** Spreads rapidly, is often described as weedy in disturbed areas. (

#### Sources cited

Bartow, Amy. 2004. Propagation protocol for production of container *Microsteris gracilis* E. Greene plants; Corvallis Plant Materials Center, Corvallis, Oregon. In: Native Plant Network. URL: <http://www.nativeplantnetwork.org> (accessed 25 May 2006). Moscow (ID): University of Idaho, College of Natural Resources, Forest Research Nursery.

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