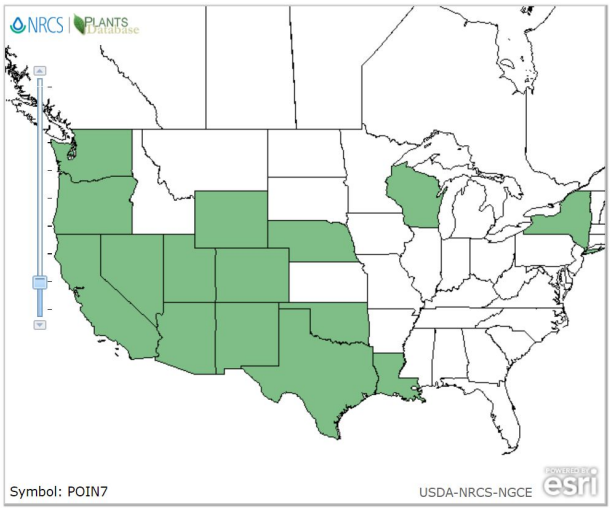
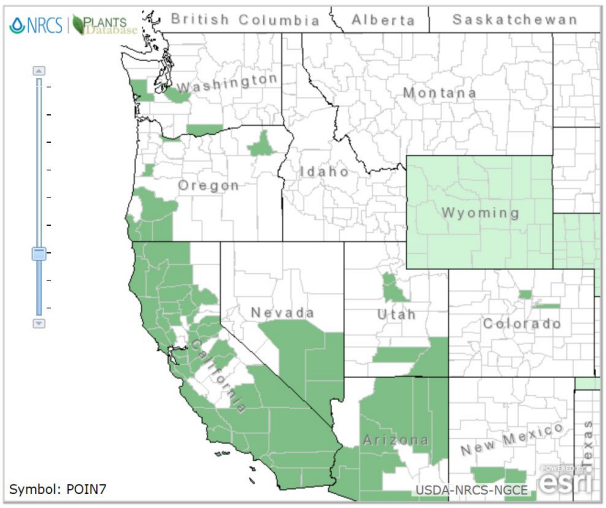
Plant Propagation Protocol for *Polypogon interruptus*
ESRM 412 – Native Plant Production
Protocol URL: https://courses.washington.edu/esrm412/protocols/*POIN7*

Photo citations: Top[7], Bottom left[3] & right[3]



North American Distribution[1]



Pacific Northwest Distribution[1]

TAXONOMY	
Plant Family	
Scientific Name	Poaceae
Common Name	Grass Family
Species Scientific Name	
Scientific Name	*Polypogon interruptus* Kunth
Varieties	*Polypogon interruptus* var. *breviaristatus* *Polypogon interruptus* var. *crinitus* *Polypogon interruptus* var. *interruptus* *Polypogon interruptus* var. *longearistata*
Sub-species	N/A
Cultivar	N/A
Common Synonym(s)	*Polypogon lutosus* auct. Non (Poir.) Hitchc. ((POLU5))[1,6]
Common Name(s)	ditch rabbitsfoot grass, ditch polypogon[1], ditch beardgrass
Species Code (as per USDA Plants database)	POIN7
GENERAL INFORMATION	
Geographical range	*P. interruptus* is found in Oregon, Washington, Utah, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, and California and occasionally other southern, central, and Eastern states.[6] Of the West coast states, it is primarily found in California but is also found sporadically in Washington and southern Oregon.[1] See maps above. *
Ecological distribution	Found in moist ditches or depressions at low altitudes[7], the wet substrate of drainage channels, or in pond and creek/streambank margins.[3,8]
Climate and elevation range	0-5350 ft (0-1630 m)[2]

Local habitat and abundance	*P. interruptus* is found in cool, moist places in low elevation.[3] No common plant associations available.
Plant strategy type / successional stage	Facultative wetland species with weedy/colonizing tendencies that cause it to be invasive in some areas.[1, 6]
Plant characteristics	A hardy, rhizomatous perennial grass.[2] Weak, decumbent 35-40" (90-100cm) stems that root at nodes. Inflorescence is a dense, contracted pale green panicle that is 1.5-18cm long, lobed or interrupted. Spikelets are 2.5-3mm long, bisexual and break apart below glumes.[8] Two glumes keeled and 1-veined, accuminate or bilobed at tip.[9]
PROPAGATION DETAILS	
Ecotype	N/A
Propagation Goal	Seeds or plants
Propagation Method	Seed
Product Type	Seed or container
Stock Type	Wild
Time to Grow	Seeds can be sown directly onto outplanting site during early spring by lightly covering seeds with soil and gently pressing. Water thoroughly for one year until established.[5] Seedlings should be outplanted when there is adequate moisture available, between October and March.[4]
Target Specifications	Seedlings should have sufficient root system before outplanting.
Propagule Collection Instructions	*P. interruptus* blooms between May and August[2], and seeds are ripe 4-6 weeks after flowering.
Propagule Processing/Propagule Characteristics	Seeds can be sown immediatly or collected, dried, and stored for several years in a cool, dry location.[4] *P. monspeiliensis*, a similar species, has approximately 5,830,000 seeds per pound.[10]
Pre-Planting Propagule Treatments	No treatments required.
Growing Area Preparation	Prepare seeding flats with a seeding or potting soil mix (eg peat, perlite, vermiculite) and press down to firm. Sow seeds directly on the surface of the media, then lightly cover about twice the thickness of the seeds using a sieve. Gently compress.[4]
Establishment Phase Details	Keep soil thoroughly moist until after germination and after seedlings are 1-2" tall. Maintain temperature at about 65 °F (18°C).[4] Bottom heating between 65-68°F (18-20°C) may enhance rooting, but is not necessary.
Length of Establishment Phase	3 weeks

Active Growth Phase	Transplant individual seedlings into tube containers at least 5-7" deep or into 1-gallon pots with a peat:perlite media.[4] Maintain soil moisture.
Length of Active Growth Phase	6-8 weeks
Hardening Phase	Acclimate seedlings to future outplanting conditions by increasing sun exposure and reducing irrigation.
Length of Hardening Phase	4-6 weeks
Harvesting, Storage and Shipping	Seeds sown after collection in the early summer can be outplanted between October and March.[4] As a perennial species, seedlings could also be stored until the following rainy season. Ship in containers.
Length of Storage	Upon hardening, outplant in next wet season (October-March).
Guidelines for Outplanting / Performance on Typical Sites	Space 12-20" (30-50 cm) apart. *P. interruptus* will likely bloom and produce seeds within the first year of establishment.[4]
Other Comments	* Conflicting information exists regarding the nativity of *P. interruptus.* Some sources claim it is native to California and the Western United States[2], while others claim that it was introduced to California and is native to South America.[5]
INFORMATION SOURCES	
References	1. USDA NRCS National Plant Data Team (ND) "Plants Profile for Polypogon interruptus (ditch rabbitsfoot grass)". USDA Plants Database. United States Department of Agriculture. Accessed May 20 2019. Web. https://plants.usda.gov/core/profile?symbol=POIN7 2. Calflora (2019) Information on California plants for education, research and conservation. The Calflora Database NPO. Berkeley, CA. Web. Accessed May 20 2019. Web. https://www.calflora.org/entry/plantchar.html?crn=6782 3. Prigge BA and Gibson AC (ND). "*Polypogon interruptus*". National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. Web. Accessed May 20 2019. https://www.smmflowers.org/mobile/species/Polypogon_interruptus.htm

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Other Sources Consulted	Barbour M and Major J, editors (1988) “Terrestrial Vegetation of California: Newly Expanded Edition”. University of California Davis Press. Emery D (1988) “Seed Propagation of Native California Plants”. Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, Santa Barbarba CA. Heistinger A (2013) “The Manual of Seed Saving”. Timber Press, Portland OR. Hitchcock CL (1969) “Key to the Grasses of the Pacific Northwest Based Upon Vegetative Characters”. University of Washington Press, Seattle WA. Print. Marquez, Justo; Dalmasso, Antonio D (2003). “Las comunidades vegetales de los ambientes húmedos del Parque Nacional El Leoncito, San Juan, Argentina”. Multequina, núm. 12, pp. 55-67. Instituto Argentino de Investigaciones de las Zonas Áridas. Mendoza, Argentina.
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