



Casco Cove Germplasm beach lovenge

Ligusticum scoticum

Selected Class Release "Natural"

**Uses: Revegetation
Throughout Coastal Alaska**

Background Information

Ligusticum scoticum is in the carrot (Apiaceae) family. Another common name for it is Scottish licorice-root.

Beach lovenge is a perennial. Once established it can live for many years. It is primarily found in coastal meadows where it tolerates salt spray.

Along the sea coast look for beach lovenge in crevices where rocks have eroded, with soils formed. Other plants found in this type of site are seaside plantain, beach wildrye, and scurvy grass.



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

Distribution

Ligusticum scoticum is native to Alaska along the sea coast. It can be found in many sub-arctic countries. In the continental United States it is found in Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island. It is listed as endangered in Connecticut and New York.

Growth

Beach lovenge is an herb with thick stems and divided, almost fleshy leaves. Its flower is called an umbel. White to pink flowers bloom in the summer. Its roots are fleshy.

Casco Cove Germplasm beach lovenge seed is maintained by the Alaska Plant Materials Center for commercial production.

Casco Cove Germplasm beach lovenge

Plant Identification Number: 9097734

Casco Cove Germplasm beach lovenge was collected on Attu, one of the Aleutian Islands in Alaska. It was collected in 1993 by Stoney Wright of the Alaska Plant Materials Center.

The seed from the parent (Casco Cove) plant is grown and harvested at the Plant Materials Center and by other seed growers.

This plant can successfully grow on highly eroded slopes under maritime conditions.

Interesting Note:

Beach lovenge can hybridize with deadly water hemlock. Care needs to be taken to identify it correctly and not use it internally (Kari, 1995).

The Dena'ina Indians of Southcentral Alaska call it *bidrushga* or *pidrushga*. These words are of Russian origin, suggesting the people may have learned the use of the plant from the Russians (Kari, 1995).

Alaska Plant Materials Center

Serving Alaska's needs in production of Alaska native plants

July 17, 2007



Casco Cove Germplasm beach lovage

Casco Cove Germplasm beach lovage for Alaska revegetation purposes

This interesting plant can grow in many locations, but prefers sunny, well-drained soil. As its name implies, beach lovage can withstand salt sprays from the ocean.

As a perennial, beach lovage has thick roots which last for years. It is a good choice for places that are eroded with difficult slopes. Although the main parts of the plant die back in autumn, the roots survive throughout the winter. This plant can be increased from root cuttings.



Ligusticum scoticum seed
~139,119 seeds per pound



Beach Lovage
production at the Plant Materials
Center in Palmer, Alaska.

To produce Casco Cove Germplasm beach lovage

Beach lovage can be direct-seeded in either late fall or spring for a mature plant to form by the end of the summer.

Casco Cove Germplasm beach lovage seed should be planted 1/4 inch deep. The seeds germinate well in either dark or light as long as they are kept moist (Plants for a Future, 2005).

References

Hultén, E. 1968. *Flora of Alaska and Neighboring Territories*. © by the Board of Trustees of the Leland Stanford Jr. University, Stanford University Press, Stanford.

Kari, P.R. 1995. *Tanaina Plantlore, Dena'ina K'et'una, Ana Ethnobotany of the Dena'ina Indians of Southcentral Alaska*. National Park Service, U.S.D.I.

Plants for a Future: Database Search Results, 2005. *Ligusticum scoticum*. [Http://www.ibiblio.org](http://www.ibiblio.org).

USDA, NRCS, National Plant Data Center, 2000. *Scottish licorice-root, Ligusticum scoticum L.* [Http://plants.usda.gov](http://plants.usda.gov).

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