Fakahatchee Grass  
Tripsacum dactyloides

Introduction
Florida Tripsacum is an herbaceous perennial originating in South Florida that forms a dense, upright clump of 3-footlong leaves. These flat blades of grass grow from a short, thick, underground rhizome. Blades are noticeably more narrow than Tripsacum dactyloides. This grass attains a height of about 2 to 3 feet and spreads to form a clump up to 6-feetwide. The flowers appear in somewhat showy spikes, with rustcolored anthers. These spikes appear in the spring and summer.

General Information
Scientific name: Tripsacum floridana  
Pronunciation: trip-SAY-kum flor-rid-DAY-nuh  
Common name(s): Florida Gamma Grass, Dwarf Fakahatchee Grass, Florida Tripsacum  
Family: Gramineae  
Plant type: herbaceous; ornamental grass  
USDA hardiness zones: 8 through 11  
Planting month for zone 9: year round  
Origin: native to Florida  
Uses: accent; border; mass planting; container or above-ground planter  
Availability: somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the plant

Description
Height: 3 to 4 feet  
Spread: 4 to 6 feet  
Plant habit: round  
Plant density: moderate  
Growth rate: moderate  
Texture: fine

Foliage
Fruit characteristic: inconspicuous and not showy  
Leaf arrangement: most emerge from the soil, usually without a stem  
Leaf type: simple Trunk/bark/branches: typically multi-trunked or clumping  
Leaf margin: entire  
Leaf shape: linear  
Leaf venation: parallel  
Leaf type and persistence: semi-evergreen; evergreen  
Leaf blade length: 18 to 36 inches  
Leaf color: green  
Fall color: no fall color change  
Fall characteristic: not showy
Flower
Flower color: yellow
Flower characteristic: spring flowering; summer flowering

Fruit
Fruit shape: elongated
Fruit length: 1 to 3 inches
Fruit cover: dry or hard
Fruit color: unknown

Trunk and Branches
Current year stem/twig color: not applicable
Current year stem/twig thickness: not applicable

Culture
Light requirement: plant grows in part shade/part sun
Soil tolerances: extended flooding; acidic; slightly alkaline; sand; loam; clay;
Drought tolerance: moderate
Soil salt tolerances: moderate
Plant spacing: 36 to 60 inches

Other
Roots: not applicable
Winter interest: no special winter interest
Outstanding plant: plant has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more
Invasive potential: not known to be invasive
Pest resistance: no serious pests are normally seen on the plant

Use and Management
Florida Tripsacum has proven to be an outstanding landscape plant and may be used as
an accent in ground cover beds. It is also useful to stabilize banks and steep slopes. This
grass may also create a nice edging along streams and ponds. The adaptability of Florida
Tripsacum makes it well suited for planting in water retention and detention areas. These
areas are often wet or inundated for a period of time, then become very dry. Florida
Tripsacum needs a full sun or light shade position in the landscape and adapts to dense
and light soils. It is tolerant of wet soil conditions but is also quite drought tolerant. It is
one of the most shade tolerant grasses, and naturalizes readily in a moist site. It is listed
as an endangered plant in Florida.

Pests and Diseases
No pests or diseases are of major concern.

by Edward F. Gilman