

BEACH BEAN

Bay Bean, Mackenzie Bean, Seaside jack bean, Coastal Jack Bean

Canavalia rosea (formerly *maritima*)

Fabaceae

ECHO® PLANT INFORMATION SHEET

Description

Canavalia rosea is a leguminous, drought and salt tolerant vine adapted to growing under very dry and hot conditions. Vines are widely distributed on beaches and dunes in the tropics and subtropics, also western and northern Australia. They can reach lengths of 6 m, with a compact canopy 15-30 cm high. Flat, woody pods filled with seeds are 10-15 cm long.

Uses

C. rosea is cultivated as a green manure cover crop, or as a forage crop for cattle. Its long taproot, habit of rooting at each node, and fast growth make it a good choice for eroded, sandy soils.

Common Names

- Spanish
 - frijolillo
 - haba poroto de playa
 - mate de costa

Cultivation

- **Elevation** - unclear
- **Rainfall**- drought-tolerant; tolerates high humidity
- **Soil Types** - sandy, rocky soils that are well-drained; acid or slightly alkaline.
- **Temperature Range** - unclear
- **DeLength Sensitivity** - unclear
- **Light** - prefers full sun

Harvesting and Seed Production

Seeds germinate easily if the seed coat is punctured or nicked to allow water absorption and gas exchange (scarification). Cuttings root rapidly when a stem tip with at least two nodes is used. New growth can reach 1.2-1.5 m in 2-3 weeks. Pods should be allowed to dry on the plant. They will split open (dehisce) when seeds are ready to be harvested.

Pests and Diseases

No serious pests or diseases known.

Cooking and Nutrition

Not for human consumption.

References

"*Canavalia Rosea*." *Florida Native Plant Society*, www.fnps.org/plants/plant/canavalia-rosea.

Gilman, Edward F. *Canavalia maritima* Beach Bean, Bay Bean. *EDIS New Publications RSS*, Environmental Horticulture, 11 Aug. 2015, edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fp100.