



# NRCS Species for Plant Collections

*Dalea villosa*

**Scientific Name:** *Dalea villosa*

**Common Name:** Silky Prairie Clover



Courtesy Prairie Moon  
Seed Co.



## Morphological Characteristics:

**Habit:** native warm season perennial legume reaching 8 to 20 inches tall; flowers in mid-summer; reproduces by seed

**Leaves:** oddly-pinnately compound, .75 to 1.5 inches long and one inch wide, covered in fine silky hair, chalky blue green in color, individual leaflets are elliptical, .25 to .5 inches long and less than 0.1 inches wide with smooth margins

**Flowers:** 1 to 5 inches in length, numerous, small florets tightly packed along spikelet, white, pink, or lavender in color, bloom in bands traveling up the seed spike

**Other:** Seed is similar to white and purple prairie clover, growth form of the plant is also very similar, sweet smell when crushed, deep tap root with numerous shallow branching roots

**Habitat and Range:** found throughout the central United States on sites with deep and or shifting sands, it may occupy areas that were historically longleaf pine habitat in east Texas

## Conservation Use:

Why collect this plant? Texas Plant Materials Centers have identified this plant as having potential benefits to the following conservation practice standards: 645 Upland Wildlife Habitat Management; 342 Critical Area Planting; 562 Recreation Area Improvement; 550 Range Planting. Your assistance in collecting this plant helps support the NRCS conservation practice standards which are employed daily to conserve the natural resources of Texas!

**Centers Requesting Seed:** East Texas PMC

## How to Collect Seed

1. Identify native plant stands in your area. You can go to the following websites for helpful photos <http://www.plants.usda.gov> , <http://www.noble.org/imagegallery/index.html> or [www.wildflower.org](http://www.wildflower.org)
2. Determine if seed is mature. Mature seed is typically dry and will easily separate from the seed head.
3. Hand strip mature seed by grasping the bottom of the seed head then gently pulling away from the base of the plant. Deposit seed in a brown paper sack. Collect seed from a minimum of 30 to 50 plants.
4. Label each collection as it is made so collections do not get mixed up. Information required includes: Collector's name, number of plants collected, location (parish, city, highway, GPS coordinates), site description (soil type, slope, and plants growing in association).
5. Complete NRCS-ECS-580; Plant Collection Information Form and mail with collected seeds to the NRCS Plant Materials Center requesting the species.

Knox City Plant Materials Center  
3776 FM 1292  
Knox City, TX 79529-2514

E. Kika de la Garza Plant Materials Center  
3409 N FM 1355  
Kingsville, TX 78363

East Texas Plant Materials Center  
SFA Experiment Forest FM 2782  
Nacogdoches, TX 75964

## Helpful Tips

Look for superior plants that display differences in color, height, or forage abundance and record observations. Differences in growing site or location should be made into separate collections if they are separated by more than 1 mile between sites.

## Other Photos:



Seed heads after bloom,  
but not fully mature



Active bloom showing lavender  
coloration and banding pattern of  
florets

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