

# Grant Germplasm Panicleleaf Tick-Trefoil

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Rose Lake Plant Materials Center, Wisconsin Land & Water Conservation Association, Inc, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources announce the release of a tested ecotype of Panicleleaf tick-trefoil (*Desmodium paniculatum* (L.) DC.) for the Great Lakes Region.

As a tested release, this plant will be referred to as **Grant Germplasm Panicleleaf tick-trefoil** to document its original collection location in Grant County, Wisconsin and will be assigned the NRCS accession number of 9055428.

The alternative release procedure is justified because there is an immediate need for native legumes as alternatives for non-native species.

## Description

Grant Germplasm Panicleleaf tick-trefoil is a multi-stemmed, native perennial legume that grows up to 47 inches tall. The thin branching stems of flower clusters rise above pointed, tri-part leaves. The flowers bloom July thru August and are pink to purple pea flowers in doubly branched clusters atop stems. The fruit is a 3-6 segmented pod covered with hooked hairs. The pod breaks into single-seed segments at maturity.

The common name of this species tells quite a bit about the plant. "Panicle" refers to the branched flower cluster, "Tick" refers to the segments of the fruit that break off and cling to clothing and "Trefoil" means "three leaves."



## Methods of Selection

Forty nine collections of tick-trefoil (various species) were assembled from 8 states and 16 Major Land Resource Area. Seed from each collection were planted in the greenhouse for preliminary observation of growth characteristics in 1989. In 1990 plants from 40 of the collections were placed in propagations beds for a 2-year evaluation of survival, vigor, seed weight, plant height and width, bloom period, disease resistance, foliage production, and flower abundance. Five accessions, including Grant Germplasm, were selected for further evaluation based on early and late season ranking summaries.

Advanced evaluations were completed in 1992 on the five remaining accessions. The Grant collection and two others accessions were selected for increase due to their superior survival, emergence, vigor, and foliage production.

## Anticipated Areas of Adaptation

This species range is throughout northern North America. The anticipated area of use is within the Great Lakes region, which is well within the species range. Grant Germplasm inhabits dry, sandy, open woods and slightly shaded areas.

## Environmental Impact Assessment

Grant Germplasm Panicleleaf tick-trefoil is a selection of naturally occurring germplasm and has been unaltered. Grant Germplasm has shown to be non-invasive based on the environmental evaluation process adopted by the USDA-NRCS Plant Materials Program.

## Anticipated Conservation Use

Grant Germplasm is intended for use in wildlife food plots as an alternative to introduced plant species. Seed from *Desmodium* species is used as a food source by several upland game birds and songbirds. Grant Germplasm is also an excellent deer browse.

## Availability of Plant Materials

Generation 1 (G1), equivalent to Foundation Seed, will be maintained by the USDA-NRCS Rose Lake Plant Materials Center and is available in limited quantities to commercial growers.





### **For More Information**

Visit our Plant Materials website to find more information on using plants to solve conservation problems.

<http://Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov>

**USDA-NRCS  
Rose Lake  
Plant Materials Center  
7472 Stoll Road  
East Lansing, MI 48823**

**Phone 517-641-6300  
Fax 517-641-4421**

**Plant Materials Specialist  
517-641-7831**

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**Rose Lake  
Plant Materials Center  
East Lansing, Michigan**