

NRCS Species for Plant Collections

Melica nitens

Scientific Name: *Melica nitens*

Common Name: Three-Flower Melicgrass

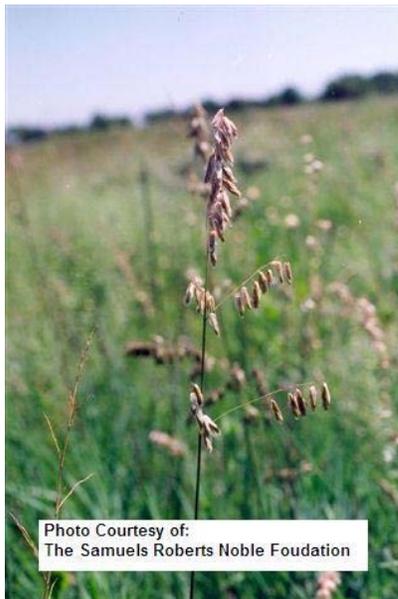


Photo Courtesy of:
The Samuels Roberts Noble Foundation

Morphological Characteristics:

- Perennial, cool-season bunchgrass
- Grows 24-36 inches tall
- Reproduces by seed mostly from April to June
- Leaves may be 3-10 mm wide and can either be smooth or have hair
- Panicle is 10-26 cm long with lower branches usually compound, spreading, or ascending
- Found on Edward's Plateau and North Central Texas regions
- Grows in open woods, moist canyon slopes and bottoms, rocky grasslands, and along stream banks
- Prefers partial shade and calcareous or sandy loam soils

Conservation Use:

Why collect this plant? The James E. "Bud" Smith Plant Materials Center has identified this plant as having potential benefits to the following NRCS conservation practice standards: 391 Riparian Forest Buffer, 645 Upland Wildlife Habitat Management, 512 Pasture and Hay Planting, 342 Critical Area Planting and 550 Range Seeding. 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:

USDA-NRCS/James E. "Bud" Smith Plant Materials Center – Knox City, Texas

How to Collect Seed:

1. Identify native plant stands in your area. You can go to the following websites for helpful photos <http://plants.usda.gov> or <http://www.noble.org/imagegallery/index.html> or 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 bag and not in a plastic bag, because moisture will collect and mold seeds. 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, and 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 below.

USDA-NRCS James E. "Bud" Smith Plant Materials Center
3950 FM 1292 Suite 100
Knox City, TX 79529-2514

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:



Courtesy of The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, Ardmore, Oklahoma

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