



NRCS Species for Plant Collections

Desmanthus leptolobus

Scientific Name: *Desmanthus leptolobus*

Common Name: Prairie Bundleflower



1 Courtesy of The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, Ardmore, Oklahoma

Morphological Characteristics:

- native, multi-stemmed, spreading legume
- warm season perennial
- stems are 2-10mm in length and are prostrate to suberect
- petioles are 2-5mm long
- leaflets are narrowly elliptic or linear
- distribution is in post oak savannah, blackland prairies, cross timbers and prairies, Edwards plateau, and rolling plains
- found on prairies and open ground, rocky and clayey areas
- fruit is long, narrow, and bunched on the end of the stems
- flowering occurs from late May through June

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 Plantings; 562 Recreation Area Improvement; 550 Range Planting; 512 Pasture and Hay Planting. Your assistance in collecting this plant helps support this effort and 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:



2 Courtesy of The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, Ardmore, Oklahoma

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