



# NRCS Species for Plant Collections

*Dalea candida*

**Scientific Name:** *Dalea candida* (Michx.) ex Willd.

**Common Name:**

White prairie clover  
Slender white prairie clover

**Morphological Characteristics:**

**Habit-** White prairie clover is a native, warm season, perennial legume reaching 2 to 3 feet in height. It reproduces by seed and parent plants re-grow from a thick tap root with a woody base each spring.

**Leaves-** The odd- pinnately compound leaves are arranged alternately on the stem and are 1 to 2.3 inches long. Each compound leaf has 5 to 9 leaflets and is silvery blue in appearance.

**Seedhead** – White flowers are born July – August on a terminal spike that blooms at the bottom and move upward on the spike as new buds open. Each flower eventually produces one brown, smooth kidney shaped seed.

**Habitat and Range-** White prairie clover is found on well drained sandy, gravelly, or silt soils across the central portions of North America



Typical flower of white prairie clover, courtesy of John Hilty at Illinois Wildflowers

**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, 512 Pasture and Hayland Planting, 342 Critical Area Planting, 340 Cover Crop, 550 Range Planting, 647 Early Successional Habitat Development Management. Your assistance in collecting this plant helps support the NRCS conservation practice standards which are employed daily to conserve the natural resources of Texas!

**Center Requesting Seed:** East Texas Plant Materials Center

**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. The cone shaped center should be brown.

3. Collect the cone shaped center and deposit them in a brown paper sack. Collect seed cones 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 requesting the species.

East Texas Plant Materials Center  
6598 FM 2782  
Nacogdoches, TX 75964

Physical Location: SFA Experimental Forest

## **Helpful Tips**

Look for superior plants that display differences in color, height, or foliage 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:**



**Foliage of white prairie clover**



**Seed of white prairie clover**  
**Photo Courtesy Shelly Maher – USDA/NRCS**  
**Kika de la Garza PMC**

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