



NRCS Species for Plant Collections

Desmanthus illinoensis

Scientific Name: *Desmanthus illinoensis* (Michx.)
MacMill. ex B.L. Rob. & Fernald

Common Names:

Illinois bundleflower
False sensitive plant
Illinois mimosa

Morphological Characteristics:

Habit- Illinois bundleflower is a warm season, native, perennial legume that grows to 4 feet in height. It reproduces by seed and parent plants re-sprout from the woody bases of long tap roots each spring.

Leaves- The bi-pinnate leaves are arranged alternately on the stem. The leaves are sensitive and fold inward when touched.

Seed head – White, “powderpuff” shaped flowers are born in mid-summer and form into cluster of whirled, flat pods about 1 to 1.5 inches long

Habitat and Range- Illinois bundleflower is widely adapted and maybe found in prairies, sloughs, forest edges or disturbed sites. This species prefers moist, medium textured soils, and is usually found growing in association with native warm season grasses

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, 550 Range Planting, 512 Pasture and Hayland Planting, and 342 Critical Area 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!

Center Requesting Seed:

East Texas Plant Materials Center



Illinois bundleflower showing characteristic whirled seed pods. Alan Shadow-USDA/NRCS East Texas Plant Materials Center



Steve Hurst @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database

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
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.



Powder puff, white flowers of Illinois bundleflower, Alan Shadow - USDA/NRCS East Texas PMC



Dried, opened seed pods of Illinois bundleflower, Alan Shadow-USDA/NRCS East Texas PMC

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