



Alexander Germplasm showy tick trefoil

Desmodium canadense L.

Alexander Germplasm showy tick trefoil was released in 1997 by the USDA NRCS Elsberry Plant Materials Center, Elsberry, Missouri as a selected class release.

Description

Showy tick trefoil is a 3 to 4 feet tall, open pollinated, native perennial warm-season legume. Leaves are clover-like with one to three long oval leaflets, usually 3 to 8 times as long as broad, mostly linear lanceolate to lanceolate; lower surface of leaflets with hairs, when present usually opened (lying parallel to the surface pressed against it). Stems nearly glabrous (without hairs). Flowers small and papilionaceous, terminal or axillary racemes in summer, mostly purple; blossoms (1 cm) in clusters at the summit of a hairy, leafy stem; calyx with a short tube, more or less two-lipped; wings joined to the knee. Fruit pods are flat, deeply lobed or jointed, joints often breaking apart and adhering to clothing and to animals by means of small hooked hairs. Other common names include stick tights and beggar's lice.



Source

Alexander Germplasm was selected from among 27 collections of showy tick trefoil in an initial evaluation planting at the Elsberry Plant Materials Center. After ten years of comparative evaluations, Alexander Germplasm was selected for ease of establishment, seedling vigor, lodging resistance, ground cover, seed production attributes, and insect and disease resistance. The original collection was made in Alexander County, Illinois.

Conservation Uses

Alexander Germplasm can be planted in a mix with other native species to benefit wildlife habitat, and conservation cover for soil conservation.

Area of Adaptation and Use

Alexander Germplasm is adapted to Major Land Resource Areas (MLRA) 103, 104, 105, 107, 108, 109, 112, 115, 116A and 116B. In field plantings in Iowa, Illinois and Missouri, Alexander Germplasm performed well on silt loam, silty clay loam, and clay loam soils reaching 100% survival with favorable stands and good to excellent seedling vigor.

Establishment and Management for Conservation Plantings

Optimum planting date is in the spring but can be winter dormant planted in late fall and winter. Prepare a clean, weed-free seedbed by disking and harrowing prior to planting. For best results, scarify and inoculate seed prior to planting. Seed should be planted at a depth of not more than ¼ inch. Seed at a rate of 10 pounds pure live seed (PLS) per acre for monoculture plantings. However, Alexander Germplasm is seldom planted alone, but in a mix with other native forbs, grasses and legumes where it generally comprises 10% of the mix.

Weed control can be accomplished by mowing, especially during the establishment year. For weed control options, consult with your local agricultural cooperative extension service for assistance with recommendations on herbicides and application rates. Alexander Germplasm responds to fire in the dormant season. Consult with your local NRCS field office for assistance with a burn plan.

Ecological Considerations

No problems with insects or diseases were observed on Alexander Germplasm. An environmental evaluation did not indicate any issues with it becoming a problem outside of its intended area of conservation use.

Seed and Plant Production

The seeding rate for seed production should be about 20 pure live seeds per linear foot in 36 inch rows (3.3 pounds PLS per acre). For solid stand production, drill 10 pounds PLS per acre to maintain 20 PLS/ft². Seed can be direct combined. At Elsberry, seed is typically combine harvested in (Month) _____. For combine harvesters, adjust concave clearance between _____ inch spacing, cylinder speed of _____ rpm, air flow on the lowest setting or no air flow, and open the chaffer sieve approximately _____. Seed should be stored between 40-50° F with a relative humidity between 35-50% to maintain long-term viability. Alexander Germplasm must be isolated from other cultivated varieties and native populations of tick trefoil by a minimum of _____ feet. There are approximately 88,000 seeds per pound.



Availability

Breeder seed is available to growers from the USDA-NRCS Elsberry Plant Materials Center. Alexander Germplasm is identified by USDA NRCS as accession number 9057110.

Citation

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For additional information about this and other plants, please contact your local USDA Service Center, NRCS field office, or Conservation District <<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>>, and visit the PLANTS Web site <<http://plants.usda.gov>> or the Plant Materials Program Web site <<http://www.plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov>>

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