



SEED COLLECTION REQUEST

Common Name: Virginia wildrye (ELVI3 or ELVIV)
Scientific Name: *Elymus virginicus* L. var. *virginicus*

Morphological Characteristics:

- Perennial, native, cool-season bunchgrass, blooms from March to May
- Grow up to 3-feet tall, lacks rhizomes, reproduces by tillering and seed, pollinated by wind
- Seed heads are 3 to 6 inches long, erect, and have numerous, coarse awns
- Each spikelet has 2 or more densely packed florets that decrease in size as they extend to the end of the inflorescence
- Spikelets are sessile, have a pair of glumes with a cluster of 2 to 4 lemmas
- Glumes bow outward at the base giving a “U” shape
- Color often varies from green to silvery blue, and foliage has a waxy appearance
- Culms are tufted, strictly erect, or decumbent at the base
- Ligule is minute, truncated, and membranous
- Leaves are alternately arranged, 12-inches long and 2/3-inches wide
- Palatable, nutritious, and readily eaten by all classes of livestock during spring and fall
- A good seed producer used in range restoration, native range mixes, and as a cool-season pasture grass
- Susceptible to white grubworms



Credit: Larry Allain, hosted by the USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database



Credit: R. Alan Shadow, USDA NRCS East Texas Plant Materials Center

Conservation Use:

Why collect this plant? Texas Plant Materials Centers have identified this plant as having potential benefits to the following conservation practice standards:

- 327 Conservation Cover
- 342 Critical Area Planting
- 550 Range Planting
- 645 Upland Wildlife Habitat Management
- 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:

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

How to Collect Seed:

- 1) Identify native plant stands in your area. You can go to the following websites for helpful photos.
- 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 or seed envelope.
 - a) Please do not use a plastic bag
 - b) Moisture will collect and mold seed.
- 4) Collect seed from a minimum of 30-50 plants.
- 5) Label each collection as it is made so collections do not get mixed up. Information required includes:
 - a) Collector's name, number of plants collected
 - b) Location (county, city, highway, and GPS coordinates)
 - c) Site description (soil type, slope, and plants growing in association).
- 6) Complete NRCS-ECS-580, plant collection information form, and mail with collected seed to the NRCS Plant Materials Center requesting the collection.

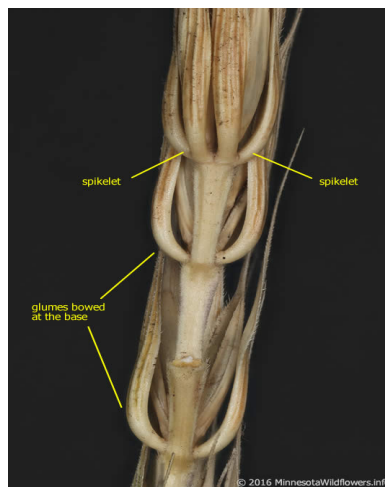
Helpful Tips:

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.

Other Photos:



Credit: Patrick J. Alexander, hosted by the USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database



Credit: Peter M. Dziuk taken in Chisago, Fillmore and Renville counties, and in his garden.
<https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/grass-sedge-rush/virginia-wild-rye>



Credit: http://www.soilcropandmore.info/crops/Grasses/Virginia_wildrye/Elymus_virginicus_auricle.jpg