



NRCS Species for Plant Collections

Eriochloa sericea

Scientific Name: *Eriochloa sericea*

Common Name: Texas Cupgrass



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

Morphological Characteristics:

- native, erect, perennial bunchgrass
- warm season
- can be found in North Central Texas, the eastern portion of the Edward's Plateau and Rolling Plains, and the Rio Grande Plains
- reproduces by tillers and seed
- seed presses tightly against the seed head and appears to sit in a small cup
- leaves are 1/16 to 1/8 inch wide and 4 to 11 inches in length
- plant height 12-48 inches
- blooming occurs from April through October
- stem of seed head will have a zig-zag appearance after seed falls
- usually grows on a clay or clay-loam soils in prairies or roadsides

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; 645 Upland Wildlife Habitat Management; 342 Critical Area Plantings; 562 Recreation Area Improvement; 550 Range Planting; 512 Pasture and Hay Planting; 332 Contour Buffer Strips; 393 Filter Strips; and 528 Prescribed Grazing. The planting of Texas cupgrass can provide excellent food and cover benefits for wildlife and livestock as well as help conserve our soil. 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 USDA-NRCS PLANTS



**3 Courtesy of The Samuel Roberts
Noble Foundation, Ardmore, Oklahoma**

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