



# NRCS Species for Plant Collections

*Eragrostis intermedia* A.S. Hitchc.

**Scientific Name:** *Eragrostis intermedia* A.S. Hitchc.

**Common Name:** Plains Lovegrass



1 Sam C. Strickland Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

## **Morphological Characteristics:**

- native, perennial bunchgrass
- warm season
- leaves are 6-8 in long and less than ½ in wide
- pyramid-shaped panicle 8-16 inches long and 6-12 inches wide
- has long, silky hairs in the axils of the lowermost branches of the seed head
- plant height is 2-3½ feet tall
- spikelet has 3-9 flowers
- seed is reddish-brown with a rectangular shape
- starts growth in early spring
- flowers from June to November
- reproduces from seeds and tillers
- primarily found on dry, sandy, clayey, or rocky soils

## **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 plains lovegrass can provide good forage value for livestock as well as fair food and cover benefits for wildlife. 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](http://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 Patrick J. Alexander USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database 3 Patrick J. Alexander USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database**

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