



NRCS Species for Plant Collections

Psoralea tenuiflora

Scientific Name: *Psoralea tenuiflora*

Common Name: Scurfpea



Photographer –Mike Haddock



Courtesy: Kurt Schaefer



Courtesy: Kurt Schaefer

Morphological Characteristics:

- native forb
- warm season
- 8-20 inches tall with many branches
- Stems are erect or ascending, 1 to several, wiry, longitudinally ridged, grayish hairy, stems readily disarticulates from crown at maturity
- Leaves are alternate, palmately compound, stem-leaves 5 foliate, branch leaves often 3-foliate: leaflets elliptic to oblanceolate, ½ to 2 inches long, ¼ to ½ inch wide, densely pubescent below and on margins, very sparse pubescent above. Surface glandular dotted
- flowers are solitary to 4 per node, pea-like up to ¼ inch long, 5 blue-violet petals and a short calyx with 5 teeth, calyx green to purple, flowers June- August
- seedpod is about ¼ inch long, ovoid and flattened, terminating into short beak, single seed, seed matures at different time on the plant
- root system is a long slender deep taproot, very drought tolerant
- adapted to dry sandy or rocky prairie, plains, open woods and along roadsides
- Distributed throughout Texas except for the Pineywoods and the South Texas Plains.

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; 342 Critical Area Plantings; 562 Recreation Area Improvement; 550 Range Planting. The planting of Scurfpea provides a pollinator source for several bee species and can provide food for wildlife as well as help conserve our soil. It is a host for nitrogen fixing bacteria. In western portion of Texas there is a need for locally adapted native (ecotypic) plant materials for use in restoration projects. 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:



Courtesy: Kurt Schaefer



Courtesy: Kurt Schaefer



Courtesy of The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, Ardmore, Ok.

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