

Where to Obtain Information

Contact your local USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service Office for more information.

Visit our Plant Materials Internet Site at <http://Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov> to find more information on solving conservation problems using plants.

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United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Plant Materials Center

Hondo Germplasm Velvet Bundleflower



An improved
conservation plant
selected by the James
E. "Bud" Smith Plant
Materials Center, Knox
City, Texas



Hondo Germplasm velvet bundleflower *Desmanthus velutinus*

Hondo Germplasm is released as a select class of certified seed (naturally selected track).

Origin

Hondo Germplasm was originally collected in 1969 from native plants located in the eastern part of Medina County approximately 8 miles from the town of Hondo, Texas. The collection site is located along a county road that runs alongside the Southern Pacific railroad. Elevation at the collection site is approximately 600 feet; the soil at the collection site is classified as Victoria clay, 0 to 1 percent slope. Average precipitation for the area is around 28 inches. The collection site is located in MLRA 83A - Northern Rio Grande

Potential Uses

Hondo Germplasm may be used as a component in seed mixtures for range seeding and wildlife. Goats, sheep and deer favor Hondo Germplasm as well as other bundleflowers. Its forage value is good while young and tender. After seed heads mature, forage is fair. Wildlife can utilize the plants and seed for food. The plants provide a good seed food crop for quail and other grassland birds. Hondo Germplasm may be utilized in filterstrips, field borders, contour buffer strips, in riparian forest buffers, and for erosion control plantings.

Plant Description

Hondo Germplasm velvet bundleflower is a native, perennial, warm-season, legume. The plant is described as several widely spreading, somewhat smooth stems up to 2 ft. long growing from a perennial root. The flowers are white "powder-puff" clusters about 1 inch in diameter. Velvet bundleflower blooms from April through June. Seeds are bore in straight pods 2-3 inches in length. Seed generally matures from mid July to late August.



Area of Adaptation

Velvet bundleflower is adapted in throughout much of Texas and Oklahoma. It occurs mostly on calcareous and limestone soils, but is not adapted to wet areas or areas with heavy woody cover.

Establishment

Seedbed preparation should begin one year prior to a scheduled spring seeding. This will decrease weed pressure and increase your chances of getting a successful stand. In areas of high erosion potential it is recommended to establish a dead litter cover crop the year prior to planting.

Hondo Germplasm velvet bundleflower is best planted using a grass drill with a small seed legume box. Broadcast seeding may be used in areas not easily

accessible with a drill, but some type of additional soil disturbance is needed to insure a good seed-to-soil contact. Hondo Germplasm seed should be inoculated with the proper *Rhizobium* bacteria before planting.

Seed should be planted no more than 1/4 inch deep on adapted soils. On a straight seeding basis for drilling or broadcasting, 4.5 pounds pure live seed (PLS) per acre should be planted. When planting in mixtures reduce the rate according to the percent of velvet bundleflower in mixture.

Management

Plantings should be well established before grazing is permitted. Established stands of Hondo should not be grazed or cut lower than 6 inches. As with all native legumes it must be managed accordingly to avoid overgrazing.

Prior to planting, soil fertility should be brought up to a medium level according to soil test recommendations. Do not add more than 10 Lbs. of nitrogen per acre until the stand is established.

Availability of Plant Materials

Generation 0 seed (equivalent to Breeder seed) will be maintained by the Plant Materials Center at Knox City. Field production (G1) seed for grower increase is available through the Texas Foundation Seed Service, Vernon, TX (940) 552-6226.