



NRCS Species for Plant Collections 2008

Menodora longiflora

Scientific Name: *Menodora longiflora*.

Common Name: showy menodora

Morphological Characteristics:

Habit- perennial, many-branched half-shrub, up to 18 inches high with woody base; seeds, borne four to a capsule, mature and shatter throughout the summer and early fall.

Leaves – mostly opposite but upper leaves sometimes alternate, usually entire but some lower leaves 2 or 3 lobed; up to 2 inches long.



© Photo by Benny J. Simpson, Texas
AgriLife Research

Inflorescence – panicle 1-1/4 to 6 inches long; 3/16 – 1/2 inch wide; branches erect, distant, usually unbranched

Flowers – yellow with tube up to 2 inches long; 5-lobed; about 1 – 1-1/4 inches across; blooms from June to September.

Habitat and Range – dry, rocky hillsides, usually limestone but also igneous, canyons and ledges along streams in the Edwards Plateau and Trans-Pecos, southeastern New Mexico and Mexico from 1100' to 6600'

Other – This is a species readily eaten by goats, sheep, and deer. It has been browsed out of some of its former area, but because of rocky habitat, it has persisted.

Conservation Use:

Why collect this plant? Texas Plant Materials Centers have identified this plant as having potential benefits to the following conservation practice standards: 342 Critical Area Planting; 550 Range Planting; 647 Early Successional Habitat Development/Management; 645 Upland Wildlife Habitat Management and 327 Conservation Cover; Your assistance in collecting this plant helps support the NRCS conservation practice standards which are employed daily to conserve the natural resources of Texas!

Centers Requesting Seed:

James E. "Bud" Smith Plant Materials Center

How to Collect Seed

1. Identify native plant stands in your area. You can go to the following websites for helpful photos: <http://www.plants.usda.gov> or <http://www.noble.org/imagegallery/index.html>

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 sack. 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 (county, township, landowner, coordinates, etc.), 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:

USDA - NRCS
James E. "Bud" Smith Plant Materials Center
3776 FM 1292
Knox City, TX 79529-2514

Helpful Tips

Look for vigorous, superior plants that display differences in color, height, and/or forage abundance and record observations. Differences in growing site or location should be made into separate collections if they are more than one mile apart.

Other Photos:



© Photos by Benny J. Simpson, Texas AgriLife Research

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, Large print, audiotope, etc.) should contact USDA's Target Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call 800-795-3272 (voice) or 202-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.