



Duck Creek Germplasm Texas Dropseed *Sporobolus texanus*

Plant Introduction

Texas dropseed (*Sporobolus texanus*) is a perennial, warm-season, native bunchgrass which is native to the southwestern United States. Plants grow clumps close to the soil surface. The leaf blades range from 1 ½ to 5 inches long and less than 1 ½ inches wide. The culms of the plant range from 12 to 20 inches long. The seed head is a panicle-type between 4 to 12 inches long and almost the same wide. Once the seed matures, from June to August, the whole seed head breaks away from the plant.

Availability of Plant Materials

Generation Zero (G0) seed (equivalent to Breeder seed) will be maintained by the NRCS James E. "Bud" Smith Plant Materials Center near Knox City, Texas. Field production (G1) seed for grower increase is available through the Texas Foundation Seed Service in Vernon, Texas, phone number 940.552.6226.

For More Information

Contact your local Natural Resources Conservation Service Office at the USDA Service Center for more information or visit the web at: <http://Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov> to find more information on solving conservation problems using plants.

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DUCK CREEK GERMPLOSM TEXAS DROPSEED

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

Use and Adaptation

Texas dropseed is adapted to a wide range of soil types, but is best adapted to soils with higher saline and alkaline levels. Because it has a higher saline tolerance, Texas dropseed is used to revegetate areas such as oil well pads and other areas with higher salt levels. It is also used to stabilize sandy soils that have high erosion potential. Wildlife can utilize the plants for food and ground nesting cover. Upland birds also feed on the mature seed produced from Texas dropseed.

Texas dropseed may be used in pure stands or as a component in seed mixtures for range restoration. It has a potential for use in saline site reclamation, pasture plantings, filter strips, erosion control and critical area plantings. The anticipated areas of adaptation are Major Land Resource Areas MLRAs 42, 77, & 78 in western Texas and western Oklahoma.

Origin

Duck creek germplasm Texas dropseed was released from the James E. "Bud" Smith Plant Materials Center, Knox City, TX in 2000. The germplasm was originally collected in 1982 from native plants located along an intermittent stream flowing into Duck Creek north of Spur in Dickens County, Texas.

Planting Method

Seedbed preparation should begin the year prior to a scheduled spring seeding of Texas dropseed. To create a firm weed-free seedbed, the site should be worked as necessary the summer or early Fall prior to establishment. Work should be completed in the fall to allow time for the site to settle and accumulate moisture. When planting saline or alkaline areas the use of some type of mulch is recommended to aid in germination.



Texas dropseed is best planted using a grass drill. Broadcast seeding may be used in areas not easily covered by a grass drill, but some type of additional soil disturbance will be beneficial to insure seed-to-soil contact, such as cultipacking and harrowing after planting.

Seed should be planted no more than 1/2 inch deep. Seeding rates for drilling or broadcasting should be 1.0 pound of pure live seed (PLS) per acre. In planting mixtures reduce the rate according to the percent of Texas dropseed desired in the mixture.

Management

Plantings should be well established before livestock grazing is permitted. Good stands can be grazed the first winter and continue thereafter throughout the year as with other grasses. Stands should not be grazed or cut lower than 4-5 inches. Contact your local NRCS office for assistance in developing and applying a prescribed grazing plan.

During heavy weed infestations, stands of Texas dropseed can be mowed if chemical control is not desired. Soil samples should be taken to determine the amount of fertilizer needed to keep the fertility level at a medium level.