



Evaluation of Narrowleaf Globemallow (*Sphaeralcea angustifolia*; SPAN3) for Conservation Plantings in the Southern Plains

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ABSTRACT

Narrowleaf globemallow is a warm-season, native, perennial forb found throughout Texas and the southern plains. Twenty-two collections were evaluated at the USDA-NRCS James E. “Bud” Smith Plant Materials Center (PMC), Knox City, Texas. The PMC discontinued evaluations in 2021 due to limited number of seed collections and mediocre performance. Germplasm is maintained at the PMC and available to interested state and federal entities.



INTRODUCTION

Narrowleaf globemallow is a warm-season, native, perennial forb occurring in prairies, meadows, pastures, savannahs, hillsides, and rocky slopes throughout the Cross Timbers and Prairies, Edwards Plateau, Rolling Plains, and Trans-Pecos regions of Texas (Linex, 2014). Seed is utilized by granivorous birds and small mammals. Flowers attract a wide variety of nectar bees, butterflies, and insects; and is a larval host for the Common Checkered Skipper. The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation determined narrowleaf globemallow also provides a nectar source for many species of native bees (Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center, 2017). Lack of a commercially available ecotypes limit the use of this forb in rangeland and grassland restoration. Objective of this study was to collect, evaluate, and release a pre-varietal selection or cultivar of narrowleaf globemallow for conservation plantings in the southern plains.

METHODS AND MATERIALS

Twenty-two collections were received from the field, propagated in the greenhouse, and transplanted in a single row common garden study for evaluation from 2008-2021 (Table 1). Accessions were visually evaluated for plant performance.

CONCLUSION

Due to the small amount of germplasm received, and lackluster field performance, a decision was made to discontinue the evaluation and close the study. Seed collections of each accession will be stored in a controlled environment for future germplasm screening by interested entities.

LITERATURE CITED

- Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center. 2017. *Sphaeralcea angustifolia* (narrowleaf globemallow). Native Plant Database. Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center. Austin, Texas.
- Linex, Ricky. 2014. Range Plants of North Central Texas – A Land User’s Guide to Their Identity, Value, and Management. USDA. NRCS. Weatherford, Texas.

Table 1: Table showing accession number, county of origin, state of origin, and submission year for each line of Narrowleaf Globemallow received by the James E. “Bud” Smith Plant Materials Center in Knox City, Texas.

Accession Number	County of Origin	State of Origin	Submission Year
9085629	Tom Green	Texas	1999
9107779	Young	Texas	2009
9110687	Coke	Texas	2012
9110693	McCulloch	Texas	2012
9110694	Kimble	Texas	2012
9110711	Hartley	Texas	2012
9110725	Jeff Davis	Texas	2012
9110729	Hockley	Texas	2012
9110737	Crosby	Texas	2012
9110738	Crosby	Texas	2012
9110739	Crosby	Texas	2012
9110740	Crosby	Texas	2012
9110742	Fisher	Texas	2012
9110743	Fisher	Texas	2012
9111058	Hartley	Texas	2013
9111059	Hockley	Texas	2013
9111061	Fisher	Texas	2013
9114322	Upton	Texas	2018
9114348	Gray	Texas	2018
9114350	Upton	Texas	2018
9114391	Knox	Texas	2019
9114399	Young	Texas	2019

Accession numbers in red did not contain viable seed for testing.

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