



NRCS Species for Plant Collections

Desmanthus illinoensis

Scientific Name: *Desmanthus illinoensis*
(Michx.) MacM. Ex B.L. robins. & Fern

Common Name: Illinois Bundleflower



Morphological Characteristics:

Habit- native warm season perennial legume reaching 2 to 5 ft; flowers June - August; reproduces by seed

Leaves- 2 - 4 inches long, alternate, doubly pinnate (bi-pinnate), consisting of many small leaflets ¼ inch in length and narrowly ovate in shape

Flowers- small, white, compound flowers, ½ inch in diameter, composed of numerous tubular florets radiating in all directions creating a “puff ball” appearance

Fruit- 20-30, 1 inch long, curved, twisted bean pods that create a whirl or “bundle” effect

Other- stems are light green and angular with scattered, small, white hairs

Habitat and Range: plains, prairies, and riverbanks throughout the central and eastern U.S.

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 Planting; 562 Recreation Area Improvement; 550 Range Planting. 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:

East Texas PMC

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> , <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 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 (parish, city, highway, 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 requesting the species.

Knox City Plant Materials Center
3776 FM 1292
Knox City, TX 79529-2514

E. Kika de la Garza Plant Materials Center
3409 N FM 1355
Kingsville, TX 78363

East Texas Plant Materials Center
SFA Experiment Forest FM 2782
Nacogdoches, TX 75964

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:



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