

REQUEST FOR SEED COLLECTIONS

Hoary Tansyaster

Species: *Machaeranthera canescens*

Common Name: Hoary tansyaster

Project Description: The Aberdeen Plant Materials Center (PMC) is beginning a study of hoary tansyaster (*Machaeranthera canescens*) with the goal of a selected class release.

Hoary tansyaster is a short-lived perennial forb native to a wide range of plant communities in the western United States. This forb has potential for use in rangeland and restoration seedings throughout the Aberdeen PMC service area.

The PMC plans to make wildland seed collections in the summer of 2008 and begin the initial evaluation studies in 2009. We need your cooperation and help in locating stands, monitoring seed maturity and assisting with seed collection.

Description: Hoary tansyaster is a short-lived perennial forb with pale to dark purple flowers. Plants are ½ to 2 ½ feet tall with diffuse branching. Leaves are oblong or lance shaped up to 2 inches long and about ¼ inch wide, and entire to sharply toothed. Flower heads have many subtending bracts that reflex away from the flower at the tip. Bract bases are membranous, sticky and the tips are green. The pappus is dirty white and hair-like.

Location: Hoary tansyaster is common in numerous plant communities from desert shrub in the valley floors to aspen and limber pine communities at higher elevations. Plants can be readily found in late summer at low elevations in Wyoming big sagebrush communities and other desert shrub sites.

Time to collect: Plants flower in late summer throughout August and into September. Seed ripens in early fall and remains on the plant until blown off. When ripe, the seed should fall easily out of the floral head.



How to collect: Seed can be collected by stripping inflorescences and seed by hand into paper sacks, or by pruning inflorescences using shears. Ripe seed can be shaken off into collection bags without clipping. For genetic diversity, each seed collection should be made from no fewer than 50 plants. To provide enough seed for testing, out-planting and evaluation, we recommend collecting about a half to full shopping sack worth of materials depending

on the amount of inert matter. However, more seed is always better.



Selection criteria: Select plants from large healthy stands with good overall vigor, good seed production, and leafiness. Special selection criteria might include plants found on particularly harsh sites, good seedling establishment traits (young plants found near mother plants), and good early season growth.

Things to include: Along with your seed collection, please include a completed NRCS seed collection form NRCS-ECS-580:

<http://plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/intranet/Publications/ecs580.pdf>.

If possible, also include a pressed voucher specimen and photos of the site and individual plants.

Thanks: Cooperation from field offices and other agencies is essential for the PMC to produce the best plant material products

possible. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Any questions or comments should be directed to Derek Tilley or Loren St. John at the PMC - Phone: (208) 397-4133 or to Dan Ogle at the Idaho state office – Phone: (208) 685-6987.

Seed should be sent to the PMC at:

USDA-NRCS, Aberdeen PMC
P.O. Box 296
1691A S. 2700 W.
Aberdeen, ID 83210

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