

PLANTING GUIDE

Zea Mexicana

'Chapingo' Mexican Teosinte

Description: Annual warm season grass species similar to corn in general vegetative appearance. Stands 10 to 15 feet in height, coarse, branching at base. Leaf blades sword shaped, long - pointed, to 3 1/4 inches wide and 13 to 48 inches long. Clusters of slender "ears" (seed pods) are produced in each of the 5-7 upper most leaf axils. Each *ear* normally contains 3-8 very firm seed, glossy, with a marking resembling an insect pupa on the face.

Conservation Use: Wildlife (quail, dove, turkey, etc.) food and habitat, also suitable for silage or green chop feed.

Area of Adaptation: Fertile soils ranging from somewhat poorly to well drained. All areas where corn can be grown. Approximately 165-170 frost free days are required from seeding to maturity.

Soil preparation: Plow and thoroughly disk area to be planted.

Planting method: Row or broadcast. Row planting - width of rows should be approximately the same as used for corn, placing seed 1-2 inches deep. Use 8-10 lbs. seed per acre. Broadcast - 10-12 lbs. per acre followed by shallow disking for seed coverage. Shattered seed will voluntarily germinate the following year. To encourage this production, till the soil by moderate to thorough disking in early March prior to germination.

Time for planting: Approximately June 1-15. If irrigation is available and greater forage yield is desired planting can be done April 1-15, weather permitting.

Fertilizer: Fertilizer requirements are similar to that for most grain crops. Application of N, P, and K should be based on a soil test. Organic and chemical fertilizers may be applied up to 50 pounds of N, P₂O₅ and K₂O.

Management: Increased stems may be obtained by cutting when plant attains height of 3-4 feet. Additional or late cuttings will decrease seed production.

