



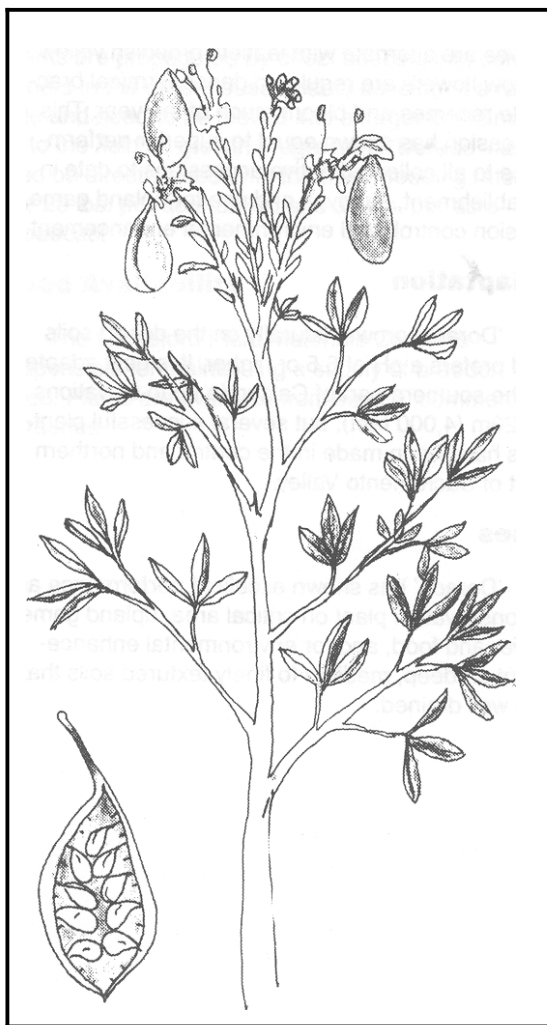
United States Department of Agriculture

Soil Conservation Service

Davis, California



'Dorado' Bladderpod



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(*Isomeris arborea* var. *globosa*)

The USDA, Soil Conservation Service, the California Agricultural Experiment Station, and the California Department of Fish and Game cooperated in the release of 'Dorado' Bladderpod. "Dorado" was developed at the SCS Plant Materials Center, Lockeford, California.

Description

A native, erect, rounded, evergreen, widely branched shrub about 16dm (4 to 5 feet) high and 16 to 21dm (5 to 7 feet) wide. The trifoliate leaves are alternate with leaflets greenish yellow. Yellow flowers are regular in dense terminal bracteate racemes and bloom much of the year. This accession has shown equal to superior performance to all collected native accessions to date in establishment, survival, and use for upland game, erosion control, and environmental enhancement.

Adaptation

'Dorado' grows naturally on the desert soils and prefers a pH of 6.5 or higher. It is best adapted to the southern part of California up to elevations of 1,220m (4,000 feet), but several successful plantings have been made in the central and northern part of Sacramento Valley.

Uses

'Dorado' has shown excellent performance as a conservation plant on critical area, upland game cover and food, and for environmental enhancement on deep, medium to finely textured soils that are well drained.

Establishment

This bladderpod accession is a good seed producer, with seed maturing throughout the year. Seed is dark brown, smooth, with a prominent end-curved embryo. Seed harvests can be made periodically, but summer-fall harvests seem to be the heaviest. Mature seed is hand harvested periodically for optimum production. There are about 9,900 seeds per kilogram (4,500 seeds per pound.) Seed germination has varied from 75 to 90 percent with an after-ripening requirement of 3 to 4 months. Plants are propagated by direct seeding into containers in the greenhouse. Plants develop at a rapid rate and need to be moved into a larger container or to the field as growth progresses. 'Dorado' can also be directly seeded in the field. Seeding rates are 20 lbs. per acre drilled and 30 lbs. per acre broadcast.

Seed Availability

The Lockeford Plant Materials Center is responsible for maintaining a supply of breeder seed. Plants are available from several commercial nurseries.

The Plant Materials Center located in Lockeford, California is one of the 23 centers the Soil Conservation Service operates. Special emphasis is placed on finding suitable plants for erosion control on soils and sites where it is difficult to establish protective vegetative cover.

Plant materials are a significant component of about two-thirds of the conservation practices that farmers, ranchers and others find essential to the solution of erosion and sedimentation problems. It is SCS policy to assemble, evaluate, release and distribute for commercial increase, new or improved plant materials needed for resource conservation and development.

SCS assistance is available without regard to race, creed, color, sex, or national origin.