

# Plants for Solving Resource Problems

## MAPLE GROVE GERmplasm LEWIS FLAX

**S**pecies: *Linum lewisii*

**Common Name:** Lewis Flax  
**Plant Symbol:** LILE3  
**Accession Number:** 9076423

**Source:** Maple Grove Germplasm is a selection from a native plant collection made in Millard County, Utah in 1988 by the USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station, Provo, Utah. The collection site is a mountain big sagebrush plant community approximately 1 km northeast of Maple Grove Campground in the Fishlake National Forest at an elevation of about 6,175 ft (1,900 m). Associated plants included Gambel oak, bluebunch wheatgrass, muttongrass, globemallow and mountain buckwheat.

**Native Site Information:** Maple Grove Selected Class Lewis flax is native to North America. The species occurs naturally from Alaska to Mexico and from California to Quebec. Lewis flax grows in a wide variety of plant communities ranging from salt-desert shrub to sub-alpine meadow.

**Method of Selection:** Maple Grove was selected to meet the demand for native flax to use in restoration of disturbed sites in the Intermountain West. It was chosen from 19 native collections from six western states. These were tested in field and greenhouse studies from 1989 to 1993. Maple Grove was selected over other accessions based on superior drought tolerance, plant longevity, seedling vigor, seed production and rust resistance.



**Maple Grove Germplasm  
Lewis Flax**

**Description:** Maple Grove Lewis flax is a medium-lived tap rooted perennial forb with few to many stems arising from a woody caudex. Light-blue petaled flowers bloom during the late spring and early summer. Petals are shed within 24 hrs, but new flowers continue to emerge for as long as six weeks.

**Use:** Maple Grove can be used for biodiversity enhancement in restoration and reclamation plantings, erosion control, habitat improvement and beautification in the Intermountain West. It can also be used in

horticultural applications such as road-side improvement and xeriscaping applications.

**Insect and Disease Problems:** No detrimental disease symptoms or insect problems have been observed in plantings of Maple Grove.

**Environmental Considerations:** This pre-variety release is from a species native to the Intermountain West and has no known negative impacts on wild or domestic animals. Maple Grove is not considered a weedy or invasive species but can spread to adjoining vegetative communities under ideal environmental conditions.

**Area of Adaptation:** Maple Grove is adapted to the Intermountain West in sites receiving 12 to 18 inches annual precipitation.

**Soil Adaptation:** Maple Grove is best suited to sites with well-drained to moderately well-drained soils.

**Planting and Harvesting:** Maple Grove should be seeded with a drill to a depth of  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch on a firm, weed-free seedbed. The full seeding rate is 4 pounds Pure Live Seed (PLS) per acre. Adjust for desired percentage when used as a component of a seed mix. For seed production, plant in 36 inch rows at a rate of 1.8 pounds PLS per acre.

Maple Grove fields must be swathed before harvest. Seed is typically harvested in early-August. Seed yields from Irrigated production average 300-350 pounds per acre.

**Seed Maintenance:** G3 seed is maintained at:

USDA-NRCS, Aberdeen PMC  
P.O. Box 296  
1691A S. 2700 W.  
Aberdeen, ID 83210  
Phone: (208) 397-4133

Certified seed is available through the University of Idaho Foundation Seed Program and Utah Crop Improvement Association and Soil Conservation Districts in Idaho, Utah and

Nevada. Certification of seed shall be limited to not more than two generations from the G3 seed.

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