

Origin and Projected Area (cont.)

The growing season is 179 days with an average daily maximum temperature of 66°F and an average daily minimum temperature of 42°F. The collection site was located on silt loam soils which were formed in alluvial sediments.

Establishment

Riley is established from seed. A clean, firm, weed-free seedbed is necessary for optimum establishment. Partridge pea will grow on low fertility sites, but will respond to fertilizer. Fertilize according to soil recommendations. The recommended seeding rate is 10 pounds pure live seed (PLS) per acre for a pure stand. Usually 2 pounds PLS per acre is recommended for seeding in a mixture. Seeds should be drilled at a depth of ¼ to ½ inch. Seed should be scarified and inoculated with EL (cowpea type) inoculant.

Management

This species must be reseeded every year for maximum stand density. However, it is a good reseeding annual and a stand may be maintained with proper management for several years. Without proper management, the planted stands will gradually disappear after 1 to 3 years as competing species dominate.

Management (cont.)

Light disking in late winter encourages natural reseeding establishment. The species also responds to early spring burning. Seed production at the Manhattan Plant Materials Center averaged 320 bulk pounds per acre. These yields were obtained by the annual planting of the species.

Availability

For foundation seed or a list of commercial vendors that handle the material, please contact:

Manhattan Plant Materials Center
3800 South 20th Street
Manhattan, Kansas 66502-9535
Phone: 785-539-8761
Fax: 785-539-2034

For More Information

Visit our Plant Materials Web site at: www.plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov to find more information on solving conservation problems using plants.

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'Riley' Showy Partridge Pea

November 2007
Salina, Kansas



Helping People Help the Land

'Riley' Showy Partridge Pea



'Riley' showy partridge pea (*Chamaecrista fasciculata* {Michx.} Greene) was released as a cultivar in 2007 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Riley is recommended for use in wildlife habitat improvement, in critical area seeding treatments, and in roadsides, parks, and recreation areas for stabilization and beautification.

Description

Riley is an annual, native, warm-season legume. Plants are from 1 to 3 feet tall, and stems are erect and branching. The bright yellow flowers are almost one-inch wide and occur in clusters of 2 to 7. The leaves have a distinct gland midway along the stalk and are compound.

Each leaf has 12- to 36-linear leaflet pairs. The fruit is a flat, linear pod that

Description (cont.)

bursts open when mature to disperse flat, triangular, dark brown seeds. There are approximately 64,460 seeds per pound.

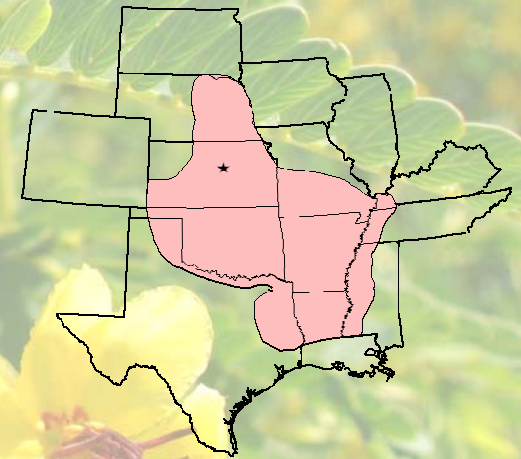
The foliage is not readily eaten by livestock. If consumed in large quantities by domestic stock, it may cause stress and infrequently death due to a cathartic substance present in the leaves and seed. Seeds of this plant are considered to be important food for various wildlife species.

Adaptation

This species has a wide geographic area of distribution ranging from Maine to Florida, west to South Dakota and Colorado, south through central Texas. It is found most commonly in rocky or sandy soils in prairies or open woods, along roadsides, and on other disturbed sites. It cannot compete in established prairie grasslands, but frequently colonizes disturbed prairie sites and edges. Riley has application for plantings in Oklahoma, Kansas, and the

Adaptation (cont.)

eastern two-thirds of Nebraska. The projected area of adaptation for Riley is represented on the map below. Although the potential range of adaptation may be greater than that shown, performance outside of the shaded area has not been adequately tested.



Origin and Projected Area of Adaptation

Riley showy partridge pea originated from seed collected from native plants growing in Riley County, Kansas (USDA Plant Hardiness Zone 5b). Annual precipitation for Riley County is approximately 33 inches.