

Description

Brooksville 68 Germplasm perennial peanut (*Arachis glabrata Benth.*) (NRCS # 9056068) was selected for use as a low-growing, low-maintenance ground cover. Think leaves are elliptic to lanceolate (pointy) in shape, typically small and dark green in color.

In groves, this perennial peanut reduces the amount of mechanical tillage and mowing necessary to control weeds in alleyways, and provides a sustainable source of nitrogen.



Brooksville 68 Germplasm established as ground cover in urban areas

Along roadways and in urban areas, it provides a low maintenance, drought tolerant, disease resistant ground cover.

Grass species growing within perennial peanut stands appear noticeably greener from the nitrogen produced by the peanuts. Brooksville 68 Germplasm is not recommended for turf because it does not respond well to repeated low mowing.

Canopy height of mature stands can range from less than 1 inch to over 6 inches. It produces substantially less biomass than forage types of perennial peanut. A comparatively large number of flowers are produced. Plants are propagated through rhizome material in the soil.

Adaptation

Brooksville 68 Germplasm prefers moist, moderate to well-drained sandy soils in full sun or partial shade. It does not survive in heavily wooded areas, areas with high water tables, or in highly droughty, sandy areas.

In Florida adaptation studies, it survived in locations within USDA Plant Hardiness Zones 8b and 9 if adequate moisture was available.

Establishment

Land preparation should begin during the summer prior to a winter planting. Recommended planting rate is 80 bushels per acre. The field should have good soil moisture and be thoroughly tilled and treated with certain preplant, pre-emergence herbicides. Rhizome material should be planted at a depth of 3-4 inches.

Fertilizer should not be applied for three to four weeks after planting. For pasture, it should not be grazed the first year. It takes from 1 to 3 years for stands to become fully established.



A large number of yellow-orange flowers are produced

Management

For weed control management, mow weeds above the foliage of the developing peanut. Frosts will cause the foliage to die. Once established, Brooksville 67 Germplasm is drought tolerant. The waxy coating on its leaves makes it less susceptible to insect and disease injury. Along roadways and urban areas, contain overgrowth with physical barriers. Repeated applications of broadleaf herbicides such as dicamba can destroy the plant. Contact the local extension office on the use of chemicals or fertilizers.

Availability

Brooksville 68 Germplasm information can be obtained by contacting the Brooksville Plant Materials Center.



For More Information

Brooksville Plant Materials Center
14119 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34601
Phone: 352-796-9600
<http://plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/flpmc/>

or

Plant Materials Specialist for Florida
P.O. Box 141510
Gainesville, FL 32614
Phone: 352-338-9544

or

any USDA Natural Resources
Conservation Service office

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Perennial Peanut

Arachis glabrata Benth.



Brooksville Plant Materials Center, Florida