

Borden County Germplasm sand dropseed

Borden County Germplasm is released as a selected class of certified seed (natural track).

Origin

Borden County Germplasm was originally collected from seed in 1984 from native plants located approximately 12 miles west of Gail, TX (N. Lat. 32° 45' 23", W Long 101° 38' 48") in Borden County Texas. Elevation at the collection site is approximately 2602 feet; the soil at the collection site is classified as Weymouth Series, Vernon Complex. Average precipitation for the area is around 16 inches. The collection site is located in MLRA 78B - Rolling Plains, Western Part.

Potential Uses

Borden County Germplasm may be used in pure stands or as a component in seed mixtures for range seeding. Sand dropseed reseeds itself readily on ranges following overgrazing or drought. It may be used for stabilizing sandy soils that have high erosion potential. Its forage value is fairly palatable to all livestock. Wildlife can utilize the plants for food and ground nesting cover.

Plant Description

Borden County Germplasm is a weak, perennial, warm-season, native bunchgrass that occurs over much of the US except forested areas of the Southeast and California. Sand dropseed is common in the southern Plains.



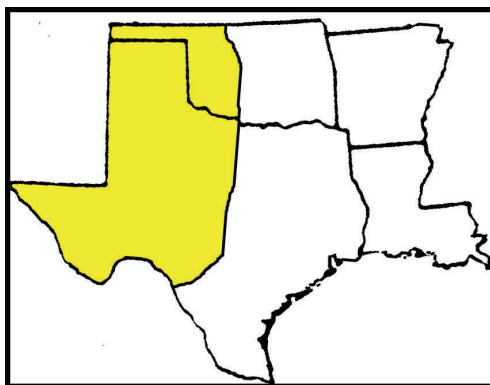
Area of Adaptation

Borden County Germplasm's anticipated areas of adaptation are MLRAs 42, 77, 78, 80A,B, 81A,B, and 84B in central and western Texas and western Oklahoma. Sand dropseed is adapted to a wide range of soil types but will perform best on sandy soils, rocky and silty soils, and coarse gravelly soils.

Establishment

Seedbed preparation should begin the year prior to a scheduled spring seeding of Borden

Projected Area of Adaptation of Borden County Germplasm



County Germplasm. This will help increase the chances of not having severe weed problems the first year of establishment. Plow and work the site as necessary the summer or early Fall prior to establishment to create a firm weed-free seedbed. Work should be completed in the Fall to allow time for the site to settle and accumulate moisture.

Sand dropseed is best planted using a grass drill. Broadcast seeding may be used in areas not easily covered by a grass drill, but some type of additional soil disturbance will be beneficial to insure seed-to-soil contact. On freshly worked sandy soils seed need not be covered.

Seed should be planted no more than 1/8 inch deep on fine texture soils and to no more than 1/2 inch deep on coarse soils. Seeding rate for drilling or broadcasting should be 1.0 pounds pure live seed (PLS) per acre. In planting mixtures reduce the rate according to the percent of sand dropseed in mixture

Management

Plantings should be well established before livestock grazing is permitted. Good stands can be grazed the first winter and continue thereafter throughout the year as with other grasses. Stands should not be grazed or cut lower than 5-6 inches.

Soil fertility should be brought up to a medium level with the addition of P and K. Do not add more than 10 Lbs of N per acre until the stand is established. Weed may be controlled by mowing if they become a problem during establishment.

Availability of Plant Materials

Generation 0 seed (equivalent to Breeder seed) will be maintained by the USDA-NRCS Plant Materials Center, Knox City, Texas and is available in limited quantities to interested parties for increase purposes.

For More Information

Contact your local U. S. Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service Office for more information.

Visit our Plant Materials Internet site at <http://Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov> to find more information on solving conservation problems using plants.

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September 1999

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An improved
conservation plant
developed by the
James E. 'Bud' Smith Plant
Materials Center,
Knox City, Texas

