

Sabine

Illinois Bundleflower



A warm-season perennial legume

- *Provides food and cover for wildlife*
- *Provides forage for livestock*
- *Grows on reclaimed mined lands*

The Texas Agricultural Experiment Station
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In cooperation with the U.S. Department
of Agriculture-Soil Conservation Service
and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

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Illinois Bundleflower

'Sabine,' a new selection of Illinois bundleflower (*Desmanthus illinoensis* [Michx.] MacM.), has been released by the USDA Soil Conservation Service in cooperation with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station.

Origin

Sabine was collected from a native stand near Crystal Beach, Texas, by Soil Conservation Service personnel.

Description

Sabine averages about 3 to 4 feet in height at maturity. Somewhat woody in the lower stems, it has feathery, dark green leaves. Plants are upright, spreading, and occur singularly. The seed pods are grouped into a round, dark brown bundle and the pods are 3 to 4 times as long as they are wide. There are approximately 64,000 seed per pound.

Adaptation

Sabine is hardy from southern Texas to northern Oklahoma. The full range of adaptability outside Texas has not been determined, but it has done well on selected sites in Mississippi. The selection is well adapted to most upland and bottomland soil types receiving 15 inches or greater natural rainfall.

Uses

The plant is useful for range and pasture seeding mixtures, for wildlife food, and is an excellent legume for use in mixtures on reclaimed surface-mined areas. It is readily eaten by all types of livestock and wildlife.

Establishment

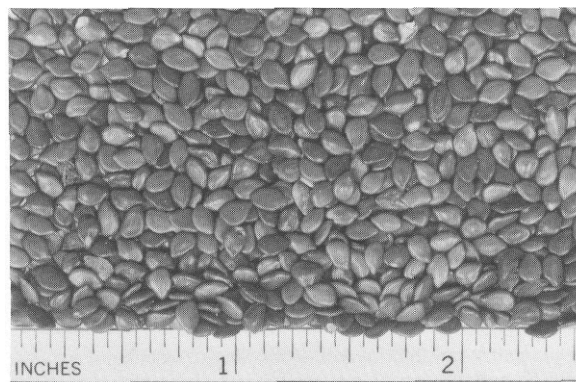
Seed should be planted at a depth of $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch at 1% pounds pure live seed per acre to obtain about two live seed per square foot in a range or pasture mixture. Plantings should be made in the spring and will usually flower the first year. Heavy weed competition will prevent establishment and overgrazing will destroy plantings.

Seed Production

Seed production fields preferably should be on raised beds, 36 to 40 inches apart, planted at a rate of approximately 2% pounds pure live seed per acre. Seed production at the Soil Conservation Service Plant Materials Center at Knox City has averaged 926 pounds per acre over a 9-year period. One to two crops are made each year, depending on climatic conditions. Seed are harvested by direct-combining.

Foundation Seed

Foundation seed is available to growers from the Foundation Seed Service, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, College Station, Texas 77843.



Closeup of seed, 'Sabine' Illinois bundleflower.

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