

AZTEC Maximilian Sunflower



- Wildlife food and cover
- Forage for livestock
- Native perennial forb for landscape uses

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In cooperation with Soil Conservation Service
U. S. Department of Agriculture

AZTEC

Maximilian Sunflower

'Aztec' Maximilian sunflower (*Helianthus Maximiliani* Schrader) was recently released by the Soil Conservation Service, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and The Texas Agricultural Experiment Station.

Origin

Seed from five counties in Texas were bulked because of their similarity and tested as PMT-1564.

Description

Maximilian sunflower is a native perennial forb, 3 to 9 feet tall, with from one to several stems. Leaves are alternate, lanceolate, and acuminate, 6 to 11 inches long. Heads are terminal; flowers are yellow and showy in late summer. The seed is a flattened achene, with about **302,000** seeds per pound.

Adaptation

Aztec is adapted to the southern three-fourths of Oklahoma and to all parts of Texas except the Trans-Pecos. It is best adapted to areas receiving 18 inches or more annual precipitation but responds to increasing moisture. It is adapted to most soil types, except where wetness or salinity is a problem.

Uses

Aztec is useful for wildlife food and cover. Several species of birds use the seed for food and the stemmy growth for cover. Deer and livestock, especially sheep and goats, readily eat the forage.

Keywords: Sunflowers/Aztec/Maximilian/adaptation/establishment/seed production/forage/wildlife food and cover/Texas/Oklahoma

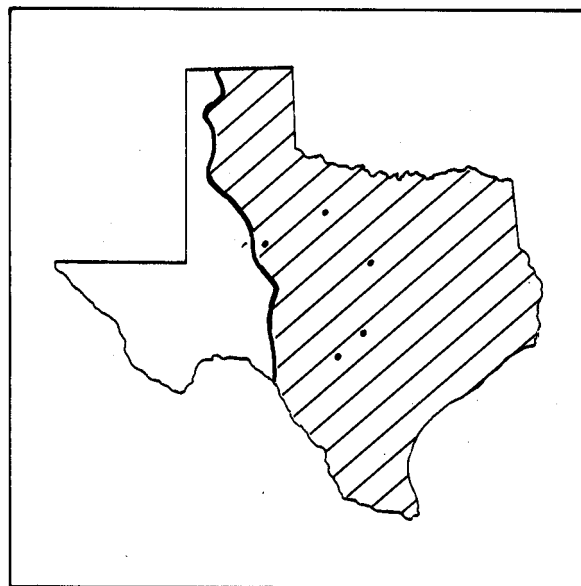
Insect and disease host potential and weed problems were not observed or documented during the testing period. These problems could possibly develop **in plantings** for purposes other than the recommended use.

Establishment

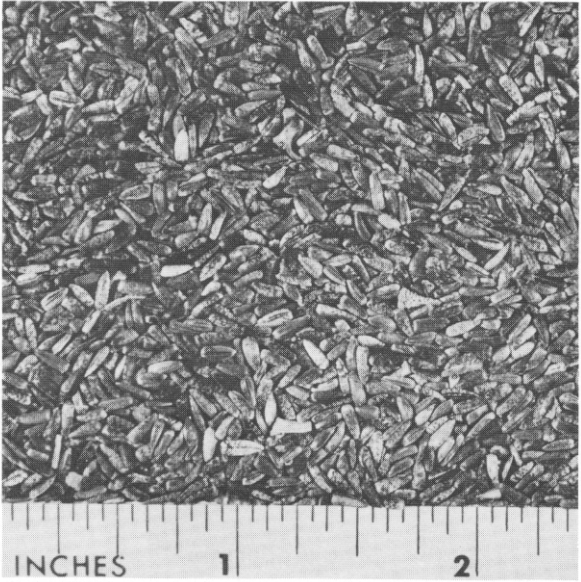
Aztec should be seeded at $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ pound per acre in range seeding mixtures while reestablishing range grasses. Strips or blocks for wildlife use can be planted at 1 pound per acre broadcast, a rate of about 7 seeds per square foot. Plantings should be made in spring and will often flower the first year. Severe weed growth will prevent establishment, and overgrazing will destroy plantings.

Seed Production

Seed production at the Soil Conservation Service Plant Materials Center at Knox City has averaged **72** pounds per acre per year for **7** years. One crop per year is produced. Planting in **80**-inch rows has made direct combine harvest easier.



● Points of origin
▨ Primary area of adaptation



Closeup of seed

Foundation Seed

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

For additional information, contact
Soil Conservation Service
U. S. Department of Agriculture
P. O. Box 648
Temple, Texas 76501

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