

DESERT ZINNIA

Zinnia acerosa (DC.) A. Gray

Plant Symbol = ZIAC

Contributed by: Tucson Plant Materials Center



E. Ramona Garner, Tucson PMC

Alternate Names

Dwarf Zinnia, Wild Zinnia, White Zinnia and Spinyleaf Zinnia

Uses

Forb component of seeding disturbed sites, and landscaping.

Status

Please consult the PLANTS Web site and your State Department of Natural Resources for this plant's current status (e.g. threatened or endangered species, state noxious status, and wetland indicator values).

Description

General:

Desert zinnia is a small shrub-like native perennial forb. The flowers consist of off-white ray flowers and yellow disc flowers. Desert zinnia may flower from spring to fall. It is found on rocky open slopes and flats between 2,300 and 6,200 ft, often occurring on calcareous soils.

Distribution:



Establishment

Desert zinnia may be direct seeded by broadcasting or drill seeding. It may also be propagated in plugs or pots and transplanted. The broadcast seeding rate is 2.2 PLS (pure live seed) per acre. The drill seeding rate is 1.1 PLS per acre.

Management

Desert zinnia may be mowed and it seems to tolerate burning. It may be removed by applying glyphosate when foliage is actively growing.

Pests and Potential Problems

Desert zinnia has no serious pest problems. It may be consumed by rabbits or ants when young. It is adapted to arid conditions and is thus susceptible to root rot if over watered.

Cultivars, Improved, and Selected Materials (and area of origin)

Batamote germplasm desert zinnia was developed by the Tucson Plant Materials Center for use in Major Land Resource Area 41 (EPA Level 3 Ecoregion 79) of southeastern Arizona. It is a composite of 9 accessions collected from native desert zinnia stands in southeastern Arizona.

Prepared By

E. Ramona Garner
Mary E. Hershendorfer

Edited:

For more information about this and other plants, please contact your local NRCS field office or Conservation District, and visit the PLANTS Web site <<http://plants.usda.gov>> or the Plant Materials Program Web site <<http://Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov>>

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