

PROPAGATION OF INDIAN BAYOU SOURCE POWDERY THALIA

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Indian Bayou is a USDA-NRCS source identified release of powdery thalia (*Thalia dealbata* Fraser ex Roscoe) originally collected in the Mississippi Delta. It can be propagated by division, but the size of the required planting piece can make planting difficult. In many instances, use of seedlings would be more desirable, however, little information is available on seed propagation methods. Testing was conducted in 1996 and 1997 to determine seed germination requirements. Seed was stored under both dry and moist refrigerated conditions. Dry stored seed was also subjected to mechanical scarification and three months of cold stratification, both alone and in combination. Two germination environments were tested, moist media conditions on a normal greenhouse bench and saturated conditions on a flood bench. Germination percentages were highest on the normal greenhouse bench. The seed maintained viability during several months of dry storage and responded positively to both stratification and scarification.

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