

REQUEST FOR SEED COLLECTIONS

Douglas' Dusty Maiden

Species: *Chaenactis douglasii*

Common Name: Douglas' dusty maiden

Project Description: The Aberdeen Plant Materials Center (PMC) is beginning a study of dusty maiden (*Chaenactis douglasii*) with the goal of a selected class release.

Douglas' dusty maiden is a biennial or short-lived perennial forb native to a wide range of plant communities in the western United States. This forb has potential for use in rangeland and restoration seedings throughout the Aberdeen PMC service area.

The PMC plans to make wildland seed collections in the summer of 2008 and begin the initial study in 2009. We need your cooperation and help in locating stands, monitoring seed maturity and assisting with seed collection.

Description: Douglas' dusty maiden is a biennial to perennial forb with whitish pink flowers. The plants typically grow from one to two feet tall with stems terminating in floral heads. The leaves are one to three inches long and pinnatifid to pinnately compound with small leaf segments. The seed/fruit is a black achene with a pappus of 10 to 16 white membranous scales.

Location: Dusty maiden is common in numerous plant communities from desert shrub in the valley floors to aspen and limber pine communities at higher elevations. Plants are typically found in coarse gravelly soils, often as an early seral species on disturbed soils of road cuts or gravel piles.

Time to collect: Plants are flowering in mid to late June. Seed should be ripe and ready



for harvest in mid July. When ripe, the seed should fall easily out of the floral head. Seed harvest timing is critical because winds can easily dislodge ripe seeds from the flowers.

How to collect: Seed can be collected by stripping inflorescences and seed by hand into paper shopping sacks, or by pruning inflorescences using shears. Ripe seed can be shaken off into collecting bags without clipping. For genetic diversity, each seed collection should be made from no fewer than 50 plants. To provide enough seed for testing, out-planting and evaluating, we recommend collecting about a half to full shopping sack worth of materials depending on the amount of inert matter. However, more seed is always better.

Selection criteria: Select plants from large healthy stands with good overall vigor, good seed production, and leafiness. Special selection criteria might include plants found on particularly harsh sites, good seedling establishment traits (young plants found near mother plants), and good early season growth.

Things to include: Along with your seed collection, please include a completed NRCS seed collection form NRCS-ECS-580:

<http://plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/intranet/Publications/ecs580.pdf>.

If possible, also include a pressed voucher specimen and photos of the site and individual plants.

Thanks: Cooperation from field offices and other agencies is essential for the PMC to produce the best plant material products possible. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Any questions or comments should be directed to Derek Tilley or Loren St. John at the PMC - Phone: (208) 397-4133 or to Dan Ogle at the Idaho state office – Phone: (208) 685-6987.

Seed should be sent to the PMC at:

USDA-NRCS, Aberdeen PMC
P.O. Box 296
1691A S. 2700 W.
Aberdeen, ID 83210

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