

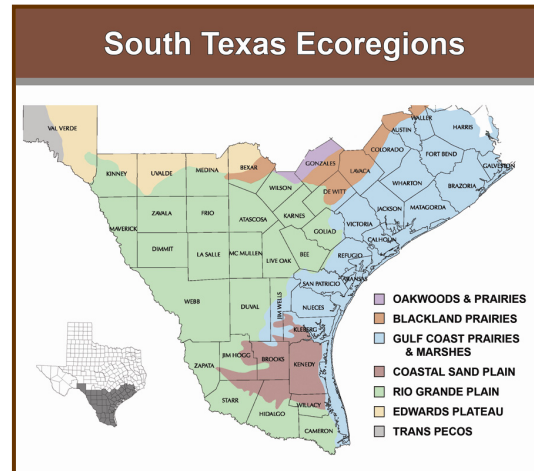
Description

Lavaca Germplasm Canada wildrye (*Elymus canadensis* L.) was originally collected in Lavaca County, Texas. Canada wildrye is a native, cool-season perennial bunchgrass that grows 2.5 to 5 feet tall. Plants flower from March to June with seed maturing in July.

Uses and Adaptation

Canada wildrye is found throughout the U.S. except the Southeast. It occurs in all vegetative regions in Texas except the extreme southern portion of the South Texas Plains. It can be found growing on shaded stream banks, along fence rows, and in open woodlands.

Lavaca Germplasm Canada wildrye has performed well on both coarse and fine textured soils. Lavaca Germplasm can be used as a cool-season component in native seed mixtures for range



restoration. It also can be used as a cool-season pasture. Because of its shade tolerance, Canada wildrye may be best suited for use in shaded areas or riparian zones.

Lavaca Germplasm has performed well at locations in the Rio Grande Plain, Gulf Coast Prairies and Marshes, Rolling Plains, Edwards Plateau, and Pineywoods regions of Texas. Lavaca Germplasm may be adapted to other regions of Texas, but this has not been verified through field testing.

Planting Methods

Seedbed preparation should begin well in advance of planting. Establish a clean, weed-free seedbed by either tillage or herbicides. Prior to planting, the site should be firm and have accumulated soil moisture. Planting should be scheduled for early fall.

Canada wildrye is best seeded using a grass drill to ensure even seed distribution over the planting area. Broadcast seeding may be used in areas not easily planted with a drill, but additional practices to encourage good seed to soil contact, such as cultipacking and harrowing, may be necessary after planting. There are approximately 87,560 seeds per pound of Canada wildrye.

Seed should be planted 1/4 to 1/2 inch deep on clay soils and up to 1 inch deep on coarse textured soils. A minimum seeding rate of 10 pounds of pure live seed (PLS) per acre is recommended. This corresponds to planting 20 live seeds per square foot. When planting a mixture, the rate of Canada wildrye should be reduced according to the total percentage desired in the mixture. When broadcast seeding or planting critical areas where a dense cover is desired, double the recommended seeding rate.

Management

Lavaca Germplasm Canada wildrye should not be grazed within the first year



of planting. Contact your local NRCS field office for assistance with prescribed grazing. Canada wildrye can be damaged by grubworms and stands may be treated in the summer with an appropriate pesticide to control damage. Canada wildrye stands will benefit from management that allows stands to reseed each spring.

Canada wildrye stands perform best in wooded pastures where aggressive warm-season species are not encountered. Do not plant Canada wildrye adjacent to pastures with large concentrations of grasses like KR bluestem or buffelgrass.



Availability

Lavaca germplasm Canada wildrye (PI-613134) was released in 2000. Breeder seed will be maintained by the E. “Kika” de la Garza Plant Materials Center in conjunction with Texas Foundation Seed Service. Breeder seed may be obtained by contacting the PMC.

For More Information

E. “Kika” de la Garza Plant Materials Center
3409 North FM 1355
Kingsville, Texas 78363
Phone: 361-595-1313
<http://plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/stpmc/>

or

Plant Materials Specialist
USDA-NRCS
WR Poage Federal Building
101 South Main Street
Temple, Texas 76501-7682
Phone: 254-742-9888

or

Your local USDA Natural Resources
Conservation Service Office

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Revised February 2007



Lavaca Germplasm Canada Wildrye

Elymus canadensis L.



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