

Introduction

Zapata Germplasm Rio Grande clammyweed [*Polanisia dodecandra* (L.) DC. ssp. *riograndensis*], is a composite of two collections from Dimmit and Zapata Counties, Texas. Zapata Germplasm is a cooperative release between South Texas Natives and the USDA-NRCS E. “Kika” de la Garza Plant Materials Center.



Description

Rio Grande clammyweed is a native, annual forb with a mature foliage height ranging from 24 to 60 inches. It produces pink flowers and seed from March through November.

Uses & Adaptation

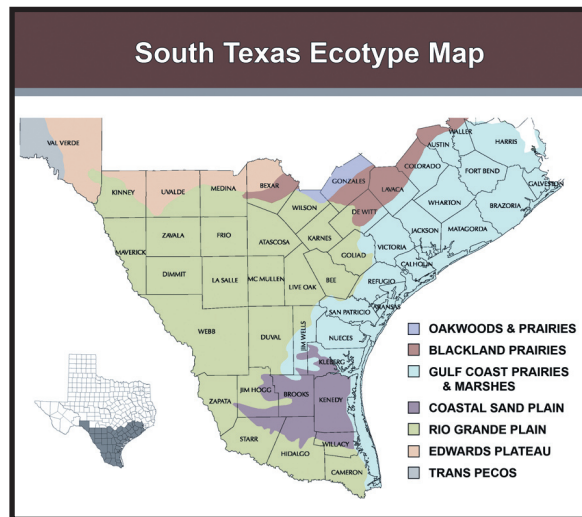
Rio Grande clammyweed produces seed eaten by a variety of game birds and wildlife. It is a good nectar source and outstanding attractant for a number of butterflies and pollinators, and harbors large insect populations beneficial to wildlife. Rio Grande clammyweed foliage is

not grazed by livestock or wildlife. Zapata Germplasm is recommended for use in upland wildlife plantings, food plots for game birds, native landscaping, and in range seeding mixes.

Rio Grande clammyweed is naturally found in sandy, gravelly or alluvial silty soils on both sides of the lower Rio Grande River and adjacent areas of south Texas. Zapata Germplasm has performed best at locations in MLRAs 83 (Rio Grande Plains) and 150 (Gulf Coast Prairies). As a component of a seed mix of native species, Rio Grande clammyweed is one of the first plants to germinate, establish and produce seed. Clammyweed is an excellent nurse plant for many slow growing, native perennial grasses.

Planting Methods

Rio Grande clammyweed should generally be planted as part of a native seed mixture or as a food plot species for game birds.



A seeding rate of 8 pounds of pure live seed (PLS) per acre is recommended for a solid stand. This corresponds to planting 20 pure live seeds/sq. ft. When planting a mixture, the rate of Rio Grande clammyweed should be reduced according to the total percentage desired in the mixture. There are approximately 154,500 seeds per pound of clammyweed.

To plant, establish a clean, weed-free seedbed by either tillage or non-residual herbicides. Prior to seeding, the site should be firm and have accumulated soil moisture. Seeding should occur in early spring or late summer-early fall, with consideration given to allow seed production and maturity before the onset of freezing temperatures. Rio Grande clammyweed typically requires 45-60 days from planting for seed to mature under ideal growing conditions.

Zapata Germplasm can be seeded using a seed drill, or broadcasted in areas not easily planted with a drill, but additional practices to encourage good seed to soil contact may be necessary. Seed should be planted 1/8 to 1/4 inch deep. It is better to plant too shallow than too deep.

Management

Zapata Germplasm Rio Grande clammyweed establishes very quickly with adequate soil moisture and good growing conditions. Areas planted with Rio Grande clammyweed should be deferred from grazing for a minimum of 30 days after planting to minimize trampling by livestock. Once established, clammyweed will re-seed itself with moderate soil disturbance prior to the growing season. Once perennial plant species establish on the planting site, clammyweed declines in abundance without additional soil disturbance.

Availability

Breeder seed of Zapata Germplasm Rio Grande clammyweed is maintained by *South Texas Natives* in conjunction with the Texas Foundation Seed Service. Breeder seed can be obtained by contacting *South Texas Natives*.



For More Information

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or

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www.plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/stpmc/

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Zapata

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ssp. *riograndensis*

