

# 'Dove'

## Proso Millet

(*Panicum miliaceum* L.)

A Conservation Plant Released by the USDA NRCS Jimmy Carter Plant Materials Center, Americus, Georgia



'Dove' Proso Millet at Seeding

'Dove' proso millet (*Panicum miliaceum* L.) is a cultivar released in 1972 by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

### Description

'Dove' proso millet is an introduced grass from Pandit Ramdott Chilkoti of Almora Providence India. It is a quick maturing, upright, summer, annual grass. It grows to a height of four feet on a fertile site with adequate moisture. The plant produces heavy stems with long, drooping light green leaves. It has a high stem to leaf ratio and produces only a few tillers per plant. Seed are light straw color borne on large, extremely drooping panicles. Seed mature in 65 to 75 days after planting time. Seed production is high up to 2,000 pounds per acre.

### Source

'Dove' proso millet was selected from 36 accessions of *Panicum miliaceum* L. at Plant Materials Centers (PMC) in Americus, Georgia, Brooksville, Florida and Coffeeville, Mississippi. It was superior in growth and seed production during three years of evaluation.

### Conservation Uses

The primary use for 'Dove' proso millet is feed for mourning doves. However, some biologists report bobwhite quail are also attracted to the millet. The grass produces mature seed within 65 to 75 days after planting and provides the wildlife manager the flexibility to maximize hunting opportunities, especially for mourning doves.

### Area of Adaptation and Use

This cultivar is adapted to most well drained, fertile soils from eastern Oklahoma and Texas to North Carolina and south to the Gulf coast. It is not well adapted to the peninsular of Florida.

### Establishment and Management for Conservation Plantings

Seedbed preparation should begin well in advance of planting. Prior to planting, the site should be firm and have accumulated soil moisture. For maximum dove utilization 'Dove' proso should be planted within 0.5 miles of a water supply. A minimum of 5 acres is required to attract enough doves for a managed hunt. Plant seed 0.25-0.5 inches deep. Drill 6 pounds of 'Dove' proso seed per acre or broadcast 12 pounds per acre. Apply 200 to 500 pounds of a 6-12-12 fertilizer (or equivalent) per acre at planting time. For most wildlife species plant in north Alabama and north Georgia from May 15- June 10; central Alabama and central Georgia from April 15- June 10; south Alabama and south Georgia from March 15- June 10. For dove hunts only, plant June 1- June 10 area wide.



'Dove' Proso Millet

### Ecological Considerations

This cultivar does not have resistance to disease or insects beyond those commonly found in the species. Several herbicides can be used to control weeds on this crop. Chinch bugs pose a problem in some production fields.

Consult your local Extension Service for recommendations.

#### **Seed and Plant Production**

Direct combine 'Dove' Proso Millet from late August to mid-September. In Americus, Georgia production usually ranges from 150-500 pounds of clean seed per acre.

#### **Availability**

'Dove' Proso Millet seed is available from most large seed dealers in the Southeastern U.S.



*'Dove' Proso Millet Production Field*

*For more information, contact:*

Jimmy Carter Plant Materials Center, 295  
Morris Drive Americus, Georgia 31719,  
Phone 229-924-4499, Fax 229-924-0013,  
<http://www.plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov>

#### **Citation:**

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

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