

A Conservation Plant Released by the Natural Resources Conservation Service
Los Lunas Plant Materials Center, Los Lunas, NM

'Jemez'

New Mexico forestiera

Forestiera neomexicana A. Gray



'Jemez' New Mexico forestiera

'Jemez' New Mexico forestiera (*Forestiera neomexicana* A. Gray) was released in 1978 by the New Mexico State University's Los Lunas Agricultural Science Center, the Colorado State University, the New Mexico Department of Transportation, and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Los Lunas Plant Materials Center.

Description

'Jemez' New Mexico forestiera (*Forestiera neomexicana* A. Gray) is a fast-growing, much-branched deciduous shrub attaining heights of 12 feet or more under favorable conditions. Suckering from the base is common.

The inner branches tend to interlace when plants are closely spaced in hedges. The plants have a tendency to form a tap root system.

The simple opposite leaves are narrow and grayish-green in color. The bark is smooth and light gray.

The small, inconspicuous flowers are crowded in dense, sessile clusters in the axils of the previous year's leaves. Plants bloom from March to April before new leaves appear.

The oblong fruit is a drupe that turns bluish-black in color between June and September when the fruit ripens. It is very bitter, but it is relished by songbirds.

Source

This variety originated from seed collected in the vicinity of Jemez Springs, New Mexico in 1939. This seed was assigned the accession number A-12044, and it was used to produce plants at the Soil Conservation Service's Albuquerque Nursery. The seed was planted at the Los Lunas Plant Materials Center in Los Lunas, New Mexico in 1963.

Conservation Uses

'Jemez' New Mexico forestiera is a deciduous woody shrub useful in soil stabilization and beautification plantings, in windbreaks, in mine reclamation plantings, and along water courses. It is also useful in landscape plantings and is a valuable wildlife plant.

Area of Adaptation and Use

Although this native species is often found growing along stream or water courses, it has considerable drought tolerance. It grows at elevations of 3,000 to 7,000 feet on hillsides, mesas, and in moist valleys.

'Jemez' is adapted to many areas of Colorado and New Mexico. However it needs supplemental water on drier sites.

Establishment and Management for Conservation Plantings

No special planting techniques are necessary for this variety other than normal procedures for any transplanted material.

Seed and Plant Production

The variety is propagated by seed. The usual procedure is to plant the seed in moist soil sometime during the fall, or at least prior to February. This provides natural stratification. A good stand of seedlings can be expected in May.

Successful stands can also be obtained by stratifying the seed in moist sand in a cooler at about 38° F. for at least 30 days. The seed is then removed from the cooler and planted in moist soil during May.

Size of seedlings in nursery beds can be partially controlled by row spacing on the amount of seed planted. The largest plants are more quickly obtained by seeding sparsely in rows spaced at least two feet apart. Some seedlings produced in this fashion are large enough to use for bare-root stock after one growing season.

Availability

For conservation use: 'Jemez' New Mexico forestiera is available commercially as bare-root stock or as containerized stock.

For seed or plant increase: Breeder seed will be maintained by the Los Lunas Plant Materials Center. Limited numbers of live plants are available to commercial growers for establishing seed source nurseries. Seed for initial commercial nursery production can be obtained from the Los Lunas Plant Materials Center through Resource Conservation Districts and state crop improvement or seed growers associations.

For more information, contact:
Los Lunas Plant Materials Center

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<http://plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/nmpmc/>

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This is a joint release among New Mexico State University's Los Lunas Agricultural Science Center, the Colorado State University, the New Mexico Department of Transportation, and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Los Lunas Plant Materials Center.

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