

Where to Obtain Information

Contact your local USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service Office for more information.

Visit our Plant Materials Internet Site at <http://Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov> to find more information on solving conservation problems using plants.

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July 2005

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United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Plant Materials Center

Cuero Germplasm Purple Prairie Clover



An improved
conservation plant
selected by the James
E. "Bud" Smith Plant
Materials Center, Knox
City, Texas



Cuero Germplasm purple prairie clover

Dalea purpurea

Cuero Germplasm is released as a select class of certified seed (naturally selected track).

Origin

Cuero Germplasm was originally collected in 1970 from native plants located in the southern part of DeWitt County approximately 11 miles from the town of Cuero along the north side of US Highway 87. Elevation at the collection site is approximately 150 feet; the soil at the collection site is classified as Tremona loamy fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slope. Average precipitation for the area is around 34 inches. The collection site is located in MLRA 83A - Northern Rio Grande Plains.

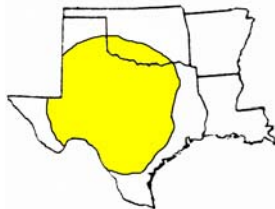
Potential Uses

Cuero Germplasm may be used as a component in seed mixtures for range and pasture plantings providing a legume for nitrogen assimilation. Livestock and wildlife favor Cuero Germplasm as highly nutritious forage. Its forage value is particularly high while young tender growth is present. As with all native legumes it must be managed accordingly to avoid overgrazing. Some livestock producers have experienced bloat problems when animals have consumed large quantities of legumes. Wildlife can utilize the plants and seed for food. The seeds provide a good food crop for quail. Cuero Germplasm may be utilized in filterstrips,

field borders, contour buffer strips, in riparian forest buffers, and for erosion control plantings.

Plant Description

Cuero Germplasm purple prairie clover, *Dalea purpurea*, is a native, warm-season, perennial legume. The plant has one or more stems up to 2.5 ft. long growing from a woody root with a stout taproot. Several branch roots are located near the surface. Purple prairie clover blooms from April through June. Seed generally matures from mid July to late August. There are approximately 275,000 seeds per pound.



Area of Adaptation

Cuero Germplasm purple prairie clover is adapted in MLRAs 42, 77C, D, 78B, C, D, 80A, B, 81A, B, C, 82, 83A, 84B, C, 85, and 86A, B in Texas. Purple prairie clover is widely distributed throughout central, south, and west Texas. Purple prairie clover occurs mostly on sandy, sandy loam and other moderately drained soils. Purple prairie clover is adapted to prairies, plains and slopes along hillsides.

Establishment

Seedbed preparation should begin the year prior to a scheduled spring seeding of Cuero Germplasm purple prairie clover. This will greatly increase your chances of not having severe weed problems the first

year of establishment. In areas of high erosion potential it is recommended to establish a dead litter cover crop the year prior to planting.

Cuero Germplasm purple prairie clover is best planted using a grass drill equipped with a legume box. Broadcast seeding may be used in areas not easily covered by a drill, but some type of additional soil disturbance will be beneficial to insure seed-to-soil contact. Being a nitrogen fixing legume, Cuero Germplasm seed should be inoculated with the proper *Rhizobium* bacteria before planting.

Seed should be planted no more than 1/4 inch deep on adapted soils. On a straight seeding basis for drilling or broadcasting, 3.0 pounds pure live seed (PLS) per acre should be planted. When planting in mixtures reduce the rate according to the percent of purple prairie clover in mixture.

Management

Plantings should be well established before grazing is permitted. Established stands of Cuero should not be grazed lower than 10 inches.

Prior to planting, soil fertility should be brought up to a medium level with the addition of P and K. Do not add more than 10 Lbs. of N per acre until the stand is established.

Availability of Plant Materials

Generation 0 seed (equivalent to Breeder seed) will be maintained by the Plant Materials Center at Knox City. Field production (G1) seed for grower increase is available through the Texas Foundation Seed Service, Vernon, TX (940) 552-6226.