



**Demonstration Planting Project**

**Plant Guide**

**Rio Grande clammyweed (*Polanisia dodecandra* ssp. *riograndensis*)**



Rio Grande clammyweed is a warm-season, annual forb that quickly establishes in restoration plantings. It produces seed eaten by bobwhite quail, mourning doves, and white-winged doves. Clammyweed harbors large insect populations, and attracts a variety of butterflies. We've found clammyweed to be competitive with exotic grasses, and feel that it is a good nurse plant for many of the slow growing native grass species we work with. A release of clammyweed named Zapata Germplasm is pending for 2009.

**Orange Zexmenia (*Wedelia hispida*)**



Orange zexmenia is a warm-season, perennial forb. It provides habitat for a number of insect and butterfly species, and is browsed by white-tailed deer and cattle. Bobwhite quail also eat the seeds. Orange zexmenia is component many plant communities in south Texas, and is found on most soil types. Emergence in the Demonstration plantings to date has been fair, significant numbers of plants have emerged in the Kleberg County and Duval County plantings. In 2008, a release named Goliad Germplasm was made.

**Deer pea vetch (*Vicia ludoviciana* var. *texana*)**



Deer pea vetch is a cool-season, annual forb with a sprawling or vining growth habit. Deer pea vetch provides good forage to livestock and wildlife, and produces seed eaten by upland game birds. Deer pea vetch is a legume that fixes nitrogen and is thought to be a good soil building plant. It appears to be highly competitive with many exotic grasses. Emergence has been excellent in several plantings. The deer pea vetch used in these plantings is a germplasm developed by Dr. Bill Ocumpaugh at TAR-Beeville; the demonstration plantings are being used as an advanced evaluation of this species to document performance across the region for a future release.

**Tallow Weeds (*Plantago rhodosperma*, *hookeriana*, & *aristata*.)**



The Tallow weed blend planted as part of this project is a mixture of 3 species: redseed plantain, Hookers plantain, and bottlebrush plantain. Plantains or tallow weeds are cool-season, annual forbs that are good forage for wildlife and livestock, and produce seed eaten by quail. Tallow weeds are excellent plants for providing native options for food plots, and ground cover that may be competitive with exotic grasses during winter months and early spring. Redseed and Hookers plantains are pending release, and will be marketed as Divot Tallow Weed Blend; Pogue Agri-Partners and Turner Seed Company are currently producing seed of this upcoming release.

**Prairie acacia (*Acacia angustissima* var. *texensis*)**



Prairie acacia is a warm-season perennial forb or sub-shrub. It is a legume and a member of the Acacia family. Prairie acacia is highly palatable to livestock, browsed by white-tailed deer, and produces seed eaten by quail and other wildlife. Prairie acacia has been identified as being very competitive with several exotic grasses. It makes up a very small portion of the seed mix in these plantings, but has been observed performing very well in several plantings. Prairie acacia emergence from seed is being evaluated in the Demonstration Project, and a release is planned in coming years.

**Slender grama (*Bouteloua repens*)**



Slender grama is a warm-season, perennial grass that grows on most south Texas soil types. It is an early successional plant that quickly establishes from seed when planted. Slender grama is highly competitive with exotic grasses, common weeds and is very drought tolerant. Slender grama has been the most abundant planted species to emerge in the Demonstration Plantings. Seed is commercially available from Douglas King Seed Company; the release name is Dilley Germplasm Slender Grama.

**Arizona cottontop (*Digitaria californica*)**



Arizona cottontop is a warm-season, perennial bunchgrass. It is good to excellent forage to livestock, and is also frequently grazed by wildlife. It provides good nesting cover for ground nesting birds. Arizona cottontop is a good choice for restoration plantings because of its good seedling vigor and rapid establishment from seed. This grass is found in a variety of south Texas habitats with the exception of deep sandy soils. Seed is typically coated to allow for planting with seed drills and broadcast equipment. A release named La Salle Germplasm Arizona Cottontop is currently available from Douglas King Seed Company and Pogue Agri-Partners.



**Shortspike windmillgrass (*Chloris x subdolistachya*)**



Shortspike windmillgrass is a warm-season, stoloniferous grass. It is an early successional plant that is found clay, clay loam, loamy and sandy loam soil types in south Texas. Shortspike windmillgrass is extremely competitive with exotic grasses, and provides excellent early cover, and soil stabilization on restoration sites. Emergence in the Demonstration Plantings has been fair to date. A release named Welder Germplasm Shortspike Windmillgrass is commercially available from Turner Seed Company.

**Plains bristlegrass (*Setaria leucopila & vulpiseta*)**



Bristlegrasses are warm-season perennial bunchgrasses found throughout south Texas. Bristlegrasses provide good forage to livestock and wildlife and produce seed eaten by upland game birds. Bristlegrass seed has high levels of seed dormancy which makes emergence in restoration plantings erratic. Seed of a release named Catarina Bristlegrass Blend is available from a Pogue Agri-Partners and is produced by a consortium of Texas seed growers. The Catarina Blend contains 4 collections of bristlegrass, each of which emerges and performs differently according to the soil type of the planting site.

**False rhodesgrass (*Trichloris crinita*)**



False rhodesgrass or two-flowered trichloris is a warm-season, perennial bunchgrass found on clay and other fine textured soils in the western portion of south Texas. False rhodesgrass provides good forage and excellent nesting cover for ground nesting birds. It is a climax or late successional plant on many range sites, and a good indicator of good past range management. Emergence to date has been surprisingly good at many of the planting sites. False rhodesgrass is being screened for region-wide adaptability in these plantings. A commercially available source of seed is available from Douglas King Seed Company, named Kinney Germplasm False Rhodesgrass.