

DUNE SCURFPEA

Psoraleidium lanceolatum

(Pursh) Rydberg

Plant Symbol = PSLA3

Project description

The Aberdeen Plant Materials Center (PMC) is beginning a study of dune scurfpea (*Psoraleidium lanceolatum*) with the goal of a selected class release.

Dune scurfpea is a perennial legume native to dunes and sandy sites in the western US. This species has potential for use in rangeland and restoration seedings throughout the Aberdeen PMC service area.

The PMC plans to make wildland seed collections in the summer of 2011 and begin initial evaluation studies in 2012. We need your assistance and help in locating stands, monitoring seed maturity and assisting with seed collection.

Description

Dune scurfpea is a rhizomatous legume which superficially resembles members of the lupine genus. Dune scurfpea has palmate leaves with 3 leaflets. The leaves are yellow-green and are sparsely covered with straight, stiff, flattened hairs. The flowers are born in a loose spike-like raceme with 5 to 40 blue, purple, white or bi-colored flowers. The fruit is an oval, 1 seeded pod, approximately 4 mm long, and visibly covered with glandular warts.



Habitat

As indicated by the name, dune scurfpea is adapted to dunes and other sandy sites from 1,200 to 1,800 m (3,900 to 5,900 ft).

Time to collect

Plants flower in early and mid summer with fruit ripening indeterminately. The pods do not shatter and release seed. However, it is not known if the pods fall off the plant with maturity. Careful observation of maturation is necessary to obtain the highest quality seed.

How to collect

Seed can be collected by stripping inflorescences and seed by hand into paper sacks, or by pruning inflorescences using shears. For genetic diversity, each seed collection should be made from no fewer than 50 plants. To provide enough seed for testing, out-planting and evaluation, we recommend collecting about a half to a full paper shopping sack worth of materials depending on the amount of inert matter. More seed is always better.

Selection criteria

Select plants from large healthy stands with good overall vigor, good seed production, and leafiness. Special selection criteria might include plants found on particularly harsh sites, good seedling establishment traits (young plants found near mother plants), and good early season growth.

Things to include

Along with your seed collection, please include a completed NRCS seed collection form NRCS-ECS-580:

<http://plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/intranet/Publications/ecs580.pdf>.

If possible, also include a pressed voucher specimen and photos of the site and individual plants.

Thanks: Cooperation from field offices and other agencies is essential for the PMC to produce the best plant material products possible. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Any questions or comments should be directed to Derek Tilley or Loren St. John at the PMC - Phone: (208) 397-4133 or to Dan Ogle at the Idaho state office – Phone: (208) 685-6987.

Seed should be sent to the PMC at:

USDA-NRCS, Aberdeen PMC
P.O. Box 296
1691A S. 2700 W.
Aberdeen, ID 83210

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