

“What Difference does it make Which One I choose?”

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Pick up any seed inventory or planting rate table and chances are you will find multiple release names for the same species. While they may have the same common name and scientific name, there can be significant differences in soil types, drought and temperature tolerance, and rainfall requirements needed for maximum productivity. When considering the best choice, it is important to determine which release will work for your individual operation and resource concerns. It is also important to determine the exact species you are looking for. Bundleflower can include several different species and releases, so proper identification is crucial.

You may think, “It is all bundleflower; it should all be the same.” While it may all be bundleflower, *Desmanthus*, differences will still exist. Illinois bundleflower, *Desmanthus illinoensis*, is just one example of this case. Two release names are ‘Sabine’, released from the James E. “Bud” Smith PMC in Knox City, TX, and Reno germplasm, released from the Manhattan Plant Materials Center in Manhattan, KS. While they may be grown in different areas, it is important to choose the release that has been adapted to your area. Releases from the Plant Materials Program are selected, tested, and produced for use within each individual Plant Materials Center’s service area. The goal is to determine the highest quality plant to address different resource concerns within a particular area. Although the potential range of adaptation may be greater, performance outside of this area has not been adequately tested. You may not be able to visually distinguish between the two with the naked eye, but over several years you may notice lower forage or seed production, faster mortality, or just an overall poor plant health if the wrong decision is made.

Selecting the proper species is another consideration when deciding which bundleflower to use. Plant height, seed size and production, plant type and maturity can all differ between species. The following chart gives several examples of bundleflower species or releases and some adaptability differences between them. Again, a good understanding of different species will help in selecting the proper plant for your unique operation and resource concerns.



Release	Common Name	Scientific Name	Adatation	Rainfall Requirements	Soil
'Sabine'	Illinois Bundleflower	<i>Desmanthus illinoensis</i>	Throughout Texas except for the Rio Grande Plains and east Texas	at least 20"/yr	Adapted to most soil types, with exception to coarse sands and dense clays
Reno Germplasm	Illinois Bundleflower	<i>Desmanthus illinoensis</i>	Throughout Oklahoma, Kansas, and Nebraska	at least 16"/yr	Adapted to most soil types, with exception to coarse sands and dense clays
Hondo Germplasm	Velvet Bundleflower	<i>Desmanthus velutinus</i>	Throughout central, south, and west Texas, as well as southern Oklahoma		Prefers calcareous and limestone soils, but not heavily wooded areas or areas that remain wet for extened periods of time
'BeeWild'	Two-Horn Bundleflower	<i>Desmanthus bicornutus</i>	Throughout Mexico, Arizona, and south and central Texas	at least 12"/yr	Prefers heavy to medium texture soils that are neutral to very alkaline

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