bacteria to fix atmospheric nitrogen for use by the plant. However, prior to seeding prairie acacia, the seed must be coated with the appropriate inoculant in order to establish the symbiotic relationship.

Management

Prairie acacia should not be grazed the first year. After a stand is established, either continuous or rotational grazing can be used. It is recommended that a minimum 24 inch stubble height be maintained under continuous grazing. For rotational grazing, forage height should be utilized between 18 to 24 inches. Plants should be allowed to produce seed annually to insure stand health. Prairie acacia is a long-lived perennial that is extremely drought tolerant once established.

Availability

Seed of the Rio Grande Germplasm prairie acacia release will be identified by USDA NRCS accession number 9093599. First generation (G0) seed will be produced and maintained by the USDA-NRCS E. "Kika" de la Garza Plant Materials Center, Kingsville, Texas in conjunction with the Texas Foundation Seed Service.

For More Information

E. "Kika" de la Garza Plant Materials Center
3409 North FM 1355
Kingsville, Texas 78363
Phone: (361) 595-1313
http://plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/stpmc/

or

Plant Materials Specialist
USDA-NRCS
WR Poage Federal Building
101 South Main Street
Temple, Texas 76501-7682
Phone: (254) 742-9888

or

South Texas Natives
CKWRI-TAMUK
MSC 218, 700 University Blvd.
Kingsville, Texas 78363
Phone: (361) 593-5550
http://ckwri.tamuk.edu/research-programs/south-texas-natives

Revised August 2012

USDA NRCS
United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Rio Grande Germplasm
Prairie Acacia

***Acacia angustissima* (Mill.) Kuntze var. *hirta* (Nutt.) B.L. Rob.**

E. "Kika" de la Garza Plant Materials Center
Kingsville, Texas

South Texas Natives

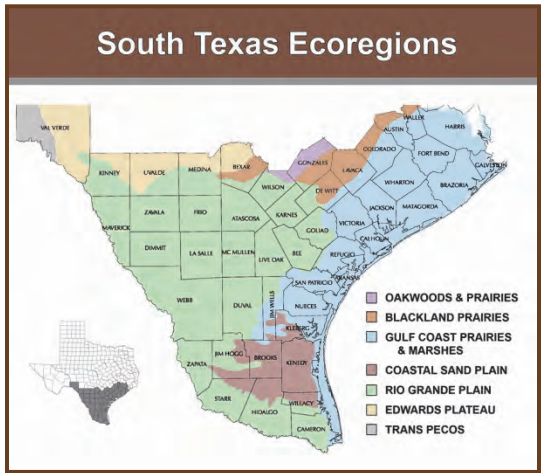
Description

Rio Grande Germplasm prairie acacia (*Acacia angustissima* (Mill.) Kuntze var. *hirta* (Nutt.) B.L. Rob.) is a blend of 3 native populations collected in the south Texas counties of McMullen, Webb, and Dimmitt. Prairie acacia, also known as fern acacia, is a native, perennial member of the legume family. It is a semi-woody sub-shrub often forming colonies from its rhizomes. Mature foliage height of this release ranges from 3 to 4 feet tall. Prairie acacia's white to cream flowers bloom from May to November.

Rio Grande Germplasm is a selected plant material class of certified seed cooperatively released in 2012 by the USDA NRCS E. "Kika" de la Garza Plant Materials Center and the *South Texas Natives* Project of the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute at Texas A&M University-Kingsville. It is a selected plant material class of certified seed (natural track). The collections included in this release had the tallest and widest growth form, best foliage production, good seed production, and good seed germination when compared to other prairie acacia collections made in south Texas. No intentional breeding, selection or genetic manipulation was carried out within these populations.

Uses and Adaptation

Rio Grande Germplasm prairie acacia is recommended for upland wildlife, range plantings and native landscaping in south Texas. It produces high quality forage for all types of grazing livestock. Crude protein of prairie acacia leaves have ranged from 16 to 29% with good digestibility. The literature reports some toxicity to sheep and other animals when fed at high concentrations. Prairie acacia provides good forage for wildlife. It also provides seed and cover for fawns and upland game birds. Rio Grande Germplasm will likely perform best in the Rio Grande Plain. However, based on the natural distribution of prairie acacia, it will likely do well in the Gulf Prairies and Marshes, the Edwards Plateau, the Trans Pecos eco-regions of Texas and adjacent portions of northern Mexico. Best performance in planting trials has been observed on medium to fine textured soils.



Planting Methods

Seedbed preparation should begin well in advance of planting. Planting can be scheduled in early spring or late summer-early fall in south Texas. Establish a clean, weed-free seedbed by either tillage or herbicides. Prior to planting, the site should be firm and have accumulated soil moisture.

Prairie acacia is best seeded using a native-grass drill to ensure a good planting of the seed on rough, irregular rangeland. Broadcast seeding may be used in areas not easily planted with a drill, but some type of additional coverage such as culti-packing or light dragging will be beneficial to ensure good seed to soil contact.

Seed should be planted 1/4 to 1/2 inch deep. A brief mechanical scarification will improve seed germination of its hard seed. For calibration purposes, Rio Grande Germplasm prairie acacia contains approximately 31,000 seeds per bulk pound. A seeding rate of five pounds of pure live seed (PLS) per acre is recommended. In planting mixtures reduce the rate according to the percent of prairie acacia in the mixture.

Soil analysis should be performed prior to planting to determine the necessary levels of phosphorus and potassium. No nitrogen fertilizer is necessary since prairie acacia is a legume. It forms a symbiotic relationship with rhizobial