

recommended. Balli Germplasm has shown rapid emergence in most planting trials, and provides a warm season legume component to seed mixes. Balli Germplasm has high seed dormancy; however scarification can greatly increase the amount of seed that can actively germinate.

Management

Areas planted to Balli Germplasm should be deferred for 90 days to allow plants to become established. Established plants should be allowed to produce seed annually because in many areas with proper soil moisture prostrate bundleflower readily reseeds itself with minimal soil disturbance.

No severe insect or disease problems have been observed in prostrate bundleflower once established. However, granivorous insect can create a problem for seed production. Cold tolerance of this germplasm beyond the area of intended use is unknown.



Availability

Seed of Balli Germplasm prostrate bundleflower will be identified by USDA NRCS accession number 9085381. First generation (G0) seed will be produced and maintained by South Texas Natives.

For More Information

South Texas Natives
CKWRI-TAMUK
MSC 218, 700 University Blvd.
Kingsville, Texas 78363
Phone: (361) 593-4525
<http://ckwri.tamuk.edu/research-programs/south-texas-natives>

or

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/>

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Revised June 2013

Balli Germplasm Prostrate Bundleflower

Desmanthus virgatus (L.) Willd.
var. *depressus* (Willd.) B.L. Turner





Description

Balli Germplasm prostrate bundleflower (*Desmanthus virgatus* (L.) Willd. var. *depressus* (willd.) B.L. Turner) is a low growing, warm season perennial legume. This selection originated from a clay loam soil in Hidalgo County of South Texas. Balli Germplasm prostrate bundleflower flowers during the summer and seed ripens at the beginning of August in South Texas.

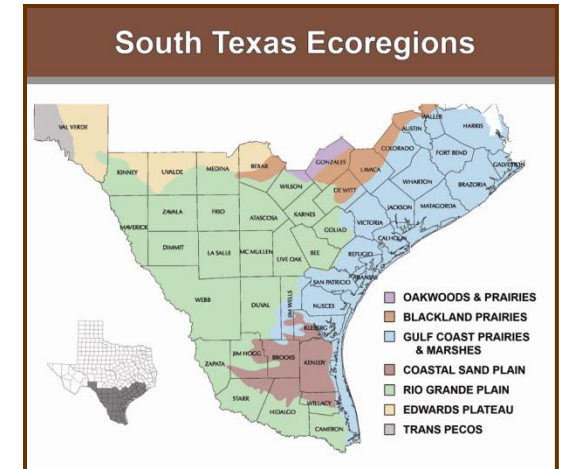
Balli Germplasm was cooperatively released in 2013 by the USDA NRCS E. “Kika” de la Garza Plant Materials Center, *South Texas Natives* Project of the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute at Texas A&M University-Kingsville, and Texas AgriLife Research Station Beeville. This release is a selected plant material class of certified seed. No breeding, selection or genetic manipulation was carried out on the release.

Uses and Adaptation

The potential for immediate use of Balli Germplasm prostrate bundleflower is high, especially for upland wildlife plantings, critical site revegetation, roadside plantings, and for inclusion in range seeding mixes. Prostrate bundleflower is a warm season perennial legume that provides forage and seeds utilized by bobwhite quail, Rio Grande turkey, white-tailed deer, and livestock.



Balli Germplasm has shown excellent competitive ability with many introduced exotic grasses. Best performance of this seed source has been observed on medium to fine textured soils. Prostrate bundleflower does not generally occur on coarse sands or loamy sand soils in the region. The area of known adaptation of Balli Germplasm includes the Rio Grande Plain, Gulf Coast Prairies and Marshes, and Sand sheet Ecoregions of Texas.



Planting Methods

Seedbed preparation should begin well in advance of planting. Planting can be done in late fall or spring in South Texas. Prostrate bundleflower can be included in warm-season planting mixtures. Establish a clean, weed-free seedbed by either tillage or herbicides. Prior to planting, the site should be firm and have accumulated soil moisture.

Prostrate bundleflower can be seeded using a drill or broadcaster. If broadcast seeded, some type of additional coverage such as culti-packing or light dragging is recommended to ensure good seed to soil contact.

Seed should be planted 1/8 to 1/4 inch deep. It is better to plant too shallow than too deep. For calibration purposes, Balli Germplasm prostrate bundleflower contains approximately 62,000 seeds per bulk pound. A seeding rate of 5-10 pounds pure live seed (PLS) per acre is