

## Introduction

Divot tallow weed is a blend of two species of plantain (commonly known as tallow weed) originating from south Texas. Divot tallow weed blend is a cooperative release between South Texas Natives, Texas Agrilife Research-Beeville, and the USDA-NRCS E. “Kika” de la Garza Plant Materials Center.



## Description

Divot tallow weed blend is made up of the release STN-561 Germplasm Hookers plantain (*Plantago hookeriana* Fisch & Mey), collected in Medina County, Texas, and STN-496 Germplasm redseed plantain (*Plantago rhodosperma* Dcne.) collected in Bexar County, Texas. Redseed and Hookers plantains are cool-season, annual native plants that grow 6-12” in height. In irrigated food plot settings, solid stands of Divot tallow weed blend will produce an average of 2,000 lbs. of forage per acre. Seed production averages 350 lbs. of pure live seed per acre in commercial settings.

## Uses & Adaptation

Tallow weeds produce seed eaten by bobwhite quail and mourning doves and forage consumed by livestock, white-tailed deer, bobwhite quail, Rio Grande wild turkey, and Texas tortoise. Divot tallow weed blend can be used as a component in upland wildlife, range, and conservation plantings and in cool season food plots for wildlife.

Redseed plantain is found throughout south Texas on clay, loam and other fine textured soils. Hookers plantain is typically found on sand, sandy loam, and coarse textured soils. Divot tallow weed blend has performed best at locations in MLRAs 83 (Rio Grande Plains) and 150 (Gulf Coast Prairies). The Divot Blend should be well adapted to most locations in south Texas.

## Planting Methods

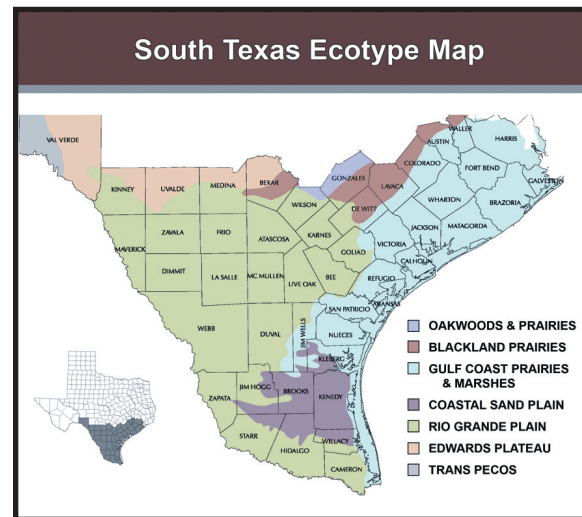
Divot tallow weed blend should generally be planted as part of a native seed mixture or as



a food plot species for wildlife. A seeding rate of 10 pounds pure live seed (PLS) per acre is recommended for a solid stand. This corresponds to planting 20 live seeds per square foot. When planting a mixture, the rate of Divot tallow weed blend should be reduced according to the total percentage desired at the planting site. There are approximately 223,000 seeds per pound of plantain seed.

Seedbed preparation should begin well in advance of planting. Establish a clean, weed-free seedbed by either tillage or non-residual herbicides. Prior to planting, the site should be firm and have accumulated soil moisture. Seeding should occur in mid-late fall or early winter (October-December) in south Texas.

Divot tallow weed blend can be seeded using a seed drill with a small seed box. Broadcast seeding may be used in areas not easily planted with a drill, but additional practices to encourage good seed to soil contact, such as cultipacking, harrowing, etc., may be necessary. Seed should be planted very shallow, approximately 1/8 inch deep. It is better to plant too shallow than too deep.



## Management

Divot tallow weed blend establishes very quickly with adequate soil moisture and good growing conditions. Tallow weeds commonly form a winter rosette following emergence, and primary forage production occurs from early February through May. Areas planted with tallow weed should be deferred from grazing for a minimum of 30 days after planting to minimize trampling by livestock. Seed stalks typically emerge from March-May and plants may produce seed through June under favorable moisture conditions. Once established, Divot tallow weed blend readily re-seeds itself with moderate soil disturbance prior to the growing season, or significant rainfall.

## Availability

Breeder seed of Divot tallow weed blend is maintained by *South Texas Natives* in conjunction with the Texas Foundation Seed Service. Breeder seed can be obtained by contacting *South Texas Natives*.



## For More Information

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or

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# Divot

## Tallow Weed Blend

*Plantago hookeriana* Fisch & Mey

*Plantago rhodosperma* Dcne.

