

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

PLANT MATERIALS CENTER
LOS LUNAS, NM

Planting Guide for Production of 'Montane' Mountainmahogany (Cercocarpus montanus).

five to six years. Seed should be collected in late summer or early fall.

2. The seed can be cleaned by hammer-milling or rubbing on a rubboard to remove the styles and removing the trash in a seed cleaner.
3. Unlike most mountainmahogany, 'Montane' will germinate readily without stratification. However, after repeated tests at the Los Lunas Plant Materials Center (PMC), better growth of seedlings has been obtained from natural stratification (planting prior to February 1) than from ~~My~~ plantings without stratification. This stratification can be simulated artificially, using clean and sterilized sand as a medium and storing at $2^{\circ} - 10^{\circ}\text{C}$ for thirty to sixty days.

PRODUCTION OF SEEDLINGS

1. For best growth, plants should be grown in a well-drained sandy loam. The seedbed can be prepared by plowing, disking and firming the surface with a roller or cultipacker.

Fumigation of seedbeds prior to planting is helpful to reduce weed competition and insect or disease problems. CAUTION: Be sure to handle

and apply fumigants or any other chemicals according to labeled instructions.

Mountainmahogany seedlings are susceptible to damage from rabbits and must be protected if they are a problem.

2. Artificially stratified seed may be planted after danger of killing frost has passed. Emergence should begin after approximately two weeks. For natural stratification, seed should be planted prior to February 1. Emergence of naturally stratified seed at Los Lunas, N. M. begins in April.
3. At the Los Lunas PMC the seed are sown in rows in beds. There are four rows, spaced 20 cm apart, in each bed. The beds are spaced for ease of access and cultivation. Seeding rates will vary according to ultimate use. At the Los Lunas PMC, approximately 500 seed or 4 grams of clean seed per meter, should yield 150 useable plants. Seeding rates this heavy will yield a high percentage of uniform liner stock (20-30 cm tall) after two years. Lower seeding rates would yield larger, less uniform, plants. The seed should be planted 1-1.5 cm deep.
4. The beds should be mulched to prevent excessive drying. An excelsior mulch with net backing is used at the Los Lunas PMC. This enables the mulch to be tacked down to prevent it from blowing. The beds should be sprinkled only enough to keep the seed zone moist to lessen the possibility of damping off.
5. Seedlings of mountainmahogany are not normally fertilized; however chlorotic conditions have been observed at the Los Lunas PMC beginning mid to late May. Whether this is a nitrogen or iron deficiency has not

been determined. In any case, fertilization should be guided by soil tests.

6. At the Los Lunas PMC, seedlings of mountainmahogany have been attacked by ants. When this has been observed, the plants have been dusted with chlorodane dust for effective control.
7. The plants should be dug when dormant, after one or two growing seasons.

Prepared by J. F. -3/79