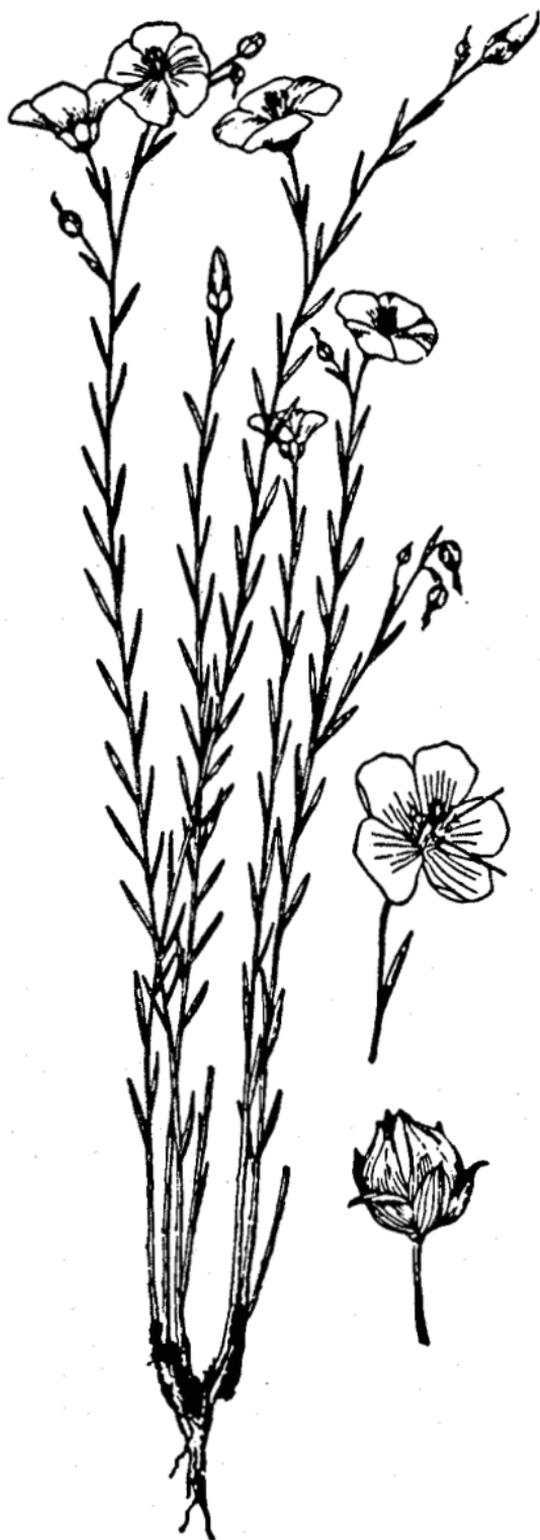




United States Department of Agriculture⁴

Soil Conservation Service

Boise, Idaho



Appar Lewis Flax

APPAR LEWIS FLAX

Appar lewis flax is a hardy, relatively short-lived native perennial forb. It was named in honor of A. Perry Plummer, U.S. Forest Service (retired), who selected the original plant material in the badlands of the Black Hills region of South Dakota. Appar was selected because of its outstanding vigor, beauty, and competitiveness with understory grasses prevalent on sites where it was collected.

Appar was released in 1980 by the Soil Conservation Service, University of Idaho Agricultural Experiment Station, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, and the U.S. Forest Service Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station.

Uses

Appar is especially well adapted to the Intermountain Region of southern Idaho and northern Utah and Nevada. Annual precipitation should be 10 inches or more. Best growth is made on well drained soils.

Appar is well adapted for use in mixtures tailored for seeding minespoils and highway rights-of-way on variable sites. It has been successfully used as a component in seed mixtures planted for range restoration. It has especially good potential for use as an ornamental in home gardens, parks, highway rest stops, etc.

Deep blue flowers develop profusely for about six weeks beginning in mid-May. Appar is non-toxic and very palatable to wildlife and livestock in early stages of growth. Birds consume the seed and capsules in fall and winter.

Culture

Range, minespoil, and other disturbed area seedings should be made in the late fall on weed-free, firm seedbeds. Irrigated plantings can be seeded either in the fall or spring.

Appar establishes slowly and should not be grazed until the second growing season after planting. It will survive heavy grazing after it is well established.

Appar has a life span of from five to seven years. Plants must develop at least one mature seed crop during this period to perpetuate themselves.

Seeding Recommendations

Seed not over one-half inch deep. It is recommended all plantings be made on a Pure Live Seed (PLS) basis.

$$\frac{\% \text{ Purity } \times \% \text{ Germination}}{100} = \text{PLS}\%$$

Seeding rates for use in mixtures for range and disturbed area plantings should be tailored to meet specific sites and needs. At one pound per acre, there would be seven seeds per square foot.

Seed production fields should be seeded at about two pounds per acre in rows 24 to 36 inches apart to permit access for machine tillage, hand roguing, and weed control.

Seed development is indeterminate. The seed grower needs to select the time for harvest when the most seed can be obtained and the least amount lost from shattering. It is recommended the seed field be swathed and allowed to dry for one week, then combined with a pick-up attachment.

Seed Availability *

Breeder seed is maintained by the Plant Materials Center at Aberdeen, Idaho. Foundation seed may be obtained through soil conservation districts in Idaho, Nevada and Utah; University of Idaho Research and Extension Center; and the Utah Crop Improvement Association.

The Soil Conservation Service operates and maintains one of its 23 plant materials centers at Aberdeen, Idaho. Special emphasis is placed on finding suitable plants for erosion control on soils and sites where it is difficult to establish protective vegetative cover.

Plant materials are a significant component of about two-thirds of the conservation practices that farmers, ranchers, and others find essential to the solution of erosion and sedimentation problems. It is SCS policy to assemble, evaluate, release, and distribute for commercial increase, new or improved plant materials needed for resource conservation and development.