

FOUR-FLOWER TRICHLORIS

Trichloris pluriflora Fourn.
plant symbol = TRPL3

Contributed by: USDA NRCS Kika de la Garza Plant Materials Center

Alternate Names

multiflowered false rhodesgrass
Chloris pluriflora



Uses

Range: Four-flower trichloris (*Trichloris pluriflora*) has been found to be a good forage and seed producer. Based on the results of three forage studies conducted with four-flower trichloris, we estimate that it can produce as much as 5994 pounds of dry weight forage per dryland acre. The presence of Four-flower trichloris is considered to be an indicator of good range condition. It is a good grass for inclusion in native range seeding mixes for South Texas.

Status

Please consult the PLANTS Web site and your State Department of Natural Resources for this plant's current status (e.g. threatened or endangered species, state noxious status, and wetland indicator values).

Description

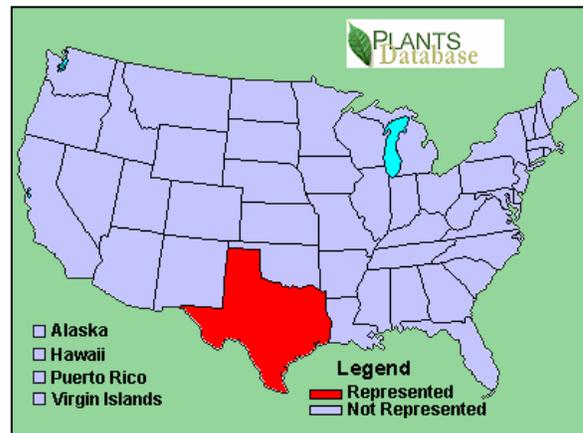
Four-flower trichloris (*Trichloris pluriflora*) is a warm-season perennial bunch grass native to Texas. It is of particular interest because USDA-NRCS soil surveys have reported that four-flower trichloris is one of two co-dominant, climax species on numerous range sites in South Texas.

Four-flower trichloris is more commonly known today as multiflowered false rhodesgrass. Its taxonomic classification is currently under debate with some grass specialists considering the species in *Trichloris* to be a separate genus and others including it under the genus *Chloris*.

Adaptation

Four-flower trichloris grows on plains and in dry woods in south Texas, Mexico, and in southern South America. It appears more adapted to clay soil.

Known Distribution



6/6/01

Establishment

Four-flower trichloris grows well from seed. Germination studies conducted at the Kika de la Garza Plant Materials Center found this species to have as high as 94% germination, but this can vary with accession and harvest year.

We recommend seeding four-flower trichloris in late winter or early spring, to allow new seedlings time to establish a good root system before the summer heat arrives. However, you can seed in the fall, if there will not be a lot of competition from cool season weeds.

Seeds should be planted on a clean, weed-free seedbed. Seeds may be planted to a ¼" depth using a

native grass drill with picker wheels at a rate of one pound of pure live seed per acre. It can also be broadcast at a rate of one and a quarter pounds of pure live seeds per acre, and covered to a maximum depth of ¼". Seeding rates should be adjusted proportionally when used as part of a seeding mix. It has been known to average as many as 47 seed heads per plant in south Texas, and produce as much as 53.5 pounds of seed per dryland (non-irrigated) acre. Four-flower trichloris contains approximately 2,145,950 seeds per pound.

Management

Four-flower trichloris can be grown irrigated or dryland. It is drought hardy. We have not had any insect or disease problems with this grass in South Texas. Fertilize according to current soil test results, once plants are established.

It is recommended that four-flower trichloris be given a year to establish a good root system before grazing. Once established, the grass can be grazed on a continual or rotational basis. For continual grazing, the recommended stubble height is a six-inch minimum. For rotational grazing, a forage height between four to ten inches is recommended. Allow at least a month and a half between rotations.

For additional assistance regarding the production and establishment of four-flower trichloris, please contact the Plant Material Center at (361) 595-1313.

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For more information about this and other plants, please contact your local NRCS field office or Conservation District, and visit the PLANTS <<http://plants.usda.gov>> and Plant Materials Program Web sites <<http://Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov>>.

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