

PERENNIAL LAZY DAISY

Aphanostephus riddellii
Torr. & Gray
plant symbol = APRI

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



Alternate Names
Riddell's doze daisy

Uses
Wildlife: Perennial lazy daisy, *Aphanostephus riddellii*, has been found to be an important food source for white-tailed deer in South Texas.

Ornamental: Perennial lazy daisy also has aesthetic value and can be a nice addition to a native garden.

Range: Perennial lazy daisy can be a good plant for inclusion in native range or pasture seed mixes.

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
Perennial lazy daisy or Riddell's doze daisy is a member of the sunflower (Asteraceae) family. It

grows nine to twelve inches tall, and its yellow-disked, white-rayed flowers bloom from February to December. The common name of lazy daisy comes from the fact that the buds droop in the morning when they are closed, and then slowly come erect when the flowers open about mid-day.

Aphanostephus riddellii is the only perennial species of this genus for Texas.

Adaptation

Perennial lazy daisy grows mostly on well drained loam soils and caliche in pastures and woods. It can be found in Texas, New Mexico, and northern Mexico. In Texas, perennial lazy daisy grows on the Edwards Plateau, through the Plains Country, and on limestone cuestas of the Rio Grande Plains. Although perennial lazy daisy may be found growing in conjunction with other *Aphanostephus* species, they have not been known to cross pollinate.

Known Distribution



Establishment

Perennial lazy daisy is best established from seed transplants. However, a seeded plot study conducted by the Kika de la Garza Plant Materials Center in Kingsville, Texas had good emergence of perennial lazy daisy despite droughty conditions.

Perennial lazy daisy has a germination rate of about 28% and prefers cooler (50°-70° F) germination temperatures. It can be seeded directly, or grown in a greenhouse for later transplanting. For direct seeding, seeds can be broadcast on a clean weed-free seedbed, with adequate accumulated soil moisture, at a rate of one pound of pure live seed per acre. Seeds should be pressed in with a cultipacker, or raked lightly into the soil to ensure good seed to soil contact. The seeding rate should be adjusted

proportionally for seeding mixes. Perennial lazy daisy averages 1, 051,610 seeds per pound.

For greenhouse seeding, we recommend seeding into a shallow germination tray filled with a thin layer of gravel, a layer of sand to promote drainage, and a layer of potting soil. Small seedlings can then be transferred to larger pots or containers when they are ¾ to 1 inch in height. It is important not to over water, because the small seedlings are prone to damping off, but soil should not be allowed to dry out completely either. New plants can be transplanted into their permanent locations after two and a half to three month's time. Transplants are best planted in late winter or early spring to allow time for good root establishment before the summer heat arrives.

Management

Perennial lazy daisy requires little management. It is tolerant of both wet and dry conditions. A 1998 field evaluation conducted at the Kika de la Garza Plant Material Center in Kingsville, Texas, found a 94 % survival rate for perennial lazy daisy. Irrigation may help to increase seed production, and to establish new plantings. Otherwise, no irrigation is necessary.

Seed can best be harvested using a canister vacuum, such as a shop vacuum. When seed is ready, it can be vacuumed right off the plant. Small quantities can be harvested by hand. Perennial lazy daisy has been known to produce as much as 265 pounds per acre per year of seed in South Texas.

Seed can be cleaned by first using a brush machine, followed by a run through a small clipper type seed cleaner.

For additional assistance regarding the production and establishment of perennial lazy daisy, 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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