



Plant Guide

FALSE RHODESGRASS

(KINNEY SELECT GERMPLASM)

Kika de la Garza PMC
Kingsville, Texas

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INTRODUCTION

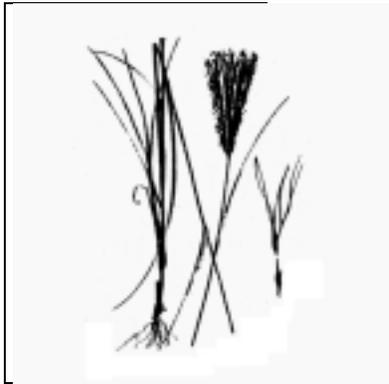
False rhodesgrass or two flower trichloris (*Chloris crinita*) is a native, warm-season perennial bunchgrass. This selected collection came from Brackettville, Kinney County, Texas. It was evaluated at the Kika de la Garza Plant Materials Center.

The “Kinney” collection of false rhodesgrass was chosen for its survivability, good seedling and plant vigor, forage production and drought tolerance.



ADAPTED AREA

“Kinney” false rhodesgrass is predominantly adapted to clay loam, claypan prairie, and tight sandy loam range sites. It will tolerate soils that are weakly saline. It is found associated with multi-flowered false rhodesgrass, plains bristlegrass and pink pappusgrass. Its natural range is south of San Antonio, Texas in the western two-thirds of the Rio Grande Plain of Texas on west to Arizona.



pasture plantings, filterstrips, erosion control plantings, and landscaping.

ESTABLISHMENT

Seedbed preparation should begin well in advance of planting. Planting can be scheduled for early spring or where there is minimal cool-season weeds, it can be planted in the fall. Establish a clean, weed-free seedbed by either tillage or herbicides. Prior to planting, the site should be firm and have accumulated soil moisture. “Kinney” false rhodesgrass is best seeded using a native-grass drill with picker wheels to ensure a good planting of the fluffy seed. Broadcast seeding may be used in areas not easily planted with a drill, but some type of additional coverage will be beneficial to ensure good seed to soil contact.

USES

“Kinney” false rhodesgrass should be used primarily as a component in seed mixtures for range restoration. It has potential for use in

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Seed should be planted at 1/8 to 1/4 inch depth. It is better to plant too shallow than too deep. A seeding rate of 1 pound of pure live seed (PLS) per acre is recommended. In planting mixtures reduce the rate according to the percent of false rhodesgrass in the mixture.

Soil analysis should be performed prior to planting to determine the necessary levels of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. Nitrogen should not be applied until the stand is established. If 1-2 plants per square foot are present then the planting has been successful.

MANAGEMENT

False rhodesgrass should not be grazed the first year. After a stand is established, either continuous or rotational grazing can be used. It is recommended that a minimum 6 inch stubble height be maintained under continuous grazing. For rotational grazing, forage height should be utilized between 4 to 10 inches.

WHERE TO GET HELP

Contact your local Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly Soil Conservation Service) office for more information. Look in the telephone book under "United States Government". The Natural Resources Conservation Service will be listed under the subheading "Department of Agriculture".

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