

# Eldorado Engelmanndaisy



**A Native, Perennial Cool-Season Forb**

- **Provides High Quality Forage for Several Classes of Livestock**
- **Provides Food and Cover for Wildlife**
- **Is Widely Adapted Throughout Texas and Oklahoma**

**The Texas Agricultural Experiment Station  
Neville P. Clarke, Director  
The Texas A&M University System  
College Station, Texas**

**In cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Soil Conservation Service and USDA-Agricultural Research Service**

# Eldorado

## Engelmanndaisy

'Eldorado', a new selection of engelmanndaisy (*Engelmannia pinnatifida* Gray EX Nutt.) has been released by the USDA Soil Conservation Service in cooperation with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station.

### Origin

Eldorado was collected from a native stand northwest of Eldorado, Schleicher County, Texas, in **1964** by William M. Rountree of the Soil Conservation Service.

### Description

A rough, hairy, perennial forb, Eldorado grows **1-3** feet tall and is topped by broad clusters of showy yellow flower heads about **1-½** inches across. The **½**-inch petals are indented at the tip. The erect to spreading stems form a rounded crown. Leaves are alternate and deeply cut, **3-6** inches long. The upper leaves often have coarse teeth. There are approximately **58,000** seed per pound.

### Adaptation

Eldorado is adapted to all of Texas and Oklahoma except extreme eastern sections, with greatest occurrence in north central Texas and the Edwards Plateau area. Eldorado is well adapted to calcareous open uplands and sandy soils of West Texas.

### Uses

The plant is a high quality forb, useful in range mixtures and readily grazed by several classes of livestock and deer. Eldorado is very high in protein and digestibility, reaching as high as **25** percent crude protein in early spring.

### Establishment

Plant seed **¼-¾**-inch deep at **2** pounds pure live seed in late summer or early fall to obtain **2-5** plants, **2-3** inches tall, per square yard. A clean, moderately firm seedbed should be prepared. Add up to **20** pounds of nitrogen with potassium and phosphorus to achieve a medium level of fertility.

### Management

Because of Eldorado's quality, proper management is required to establish and maintain this forb in a grazing situation. At least one year of rest after planting and seasonal rests in subsequent years are requirements for establishment and maintenance. **A** moderate stocking rate with a rest-rotation grazing system allows for seed production, seedling establishment, and an increase in stand vigor. It should be noted that high deer numbers will impact establishment and maintenance so this should be considered when planning the use of this forb.

### Seed Production

Seed production fields should be on raised beds, **36-40** inches apart, planted at a rate of **15-20** pounds pure live seed per acre, under irrigation to ensure a stand. Seed yield over a 7-year period averaged **288** pounds per acre at the Knox City Plant Materials Center. Two crops per year, spring and summer, are reasonable expectations. Recommendations are to swath, field dry, and pick up spring crop, and direct combine fall crop.

### Foundation Seed

Foundation seed is available to certified growers from the Soil Conservation Service Plant Materials Center, Route **1**, Box **155**, Knox City, Texas **79529-9752**.



Closeup of seed, 'Eldorado' engelmann daisy.

All programs and information of The Texas Agricultural Experiment Station are available to everyone without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, or handicap.

Mention of a trademark or a proprietary product does not constitute a guarantee or a warranty of the product by The Texas Agricultural Experiment Station and does not imply its approval to the exclusion of other products that also may be suitable.