UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

and

CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

and

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

NOTICE OF RELEASE OF 'DORADO' BLADDERPOD

The United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service;
the California Agricultural Experiment Station; and the California Depart-
ment of Fish and Game announce the release of 'Dorado' bladderpod,
Isomeris arborea Nutt. var. globosa Cov. 'Dorado' was developed at the
SCS Plant Materials Center, Lockeford, California.

'Dorado' has shown excellent performance as a conservation plant on
critical areas, upland game cover and food, and for environmental enhance-
ment on deep to moderately deep, medium to finely textured soils that
are well-drained. It grows naturally on the desert soils and prefers a
pH of 6.5 or higher. It is best adapted to the southern part of California
up to elevations of 1220 m (4,000 feet), but several successful plantings
have been made in the central and northern part of Sacramento Valley.

Description

A native, erect, rounded, evergreen, widely branched shrub about 12 to 16 dm.
(4-5 feet) high and about 16-21 dm. (5-7 feet) wide. The trifoliate leaves
are alternate with leaflets greenish-yellow, oblong to lanceolate, 1.3
to 3.8 cm. (1/2-1½ in.) long, entire, tipped at apex, rounded at base. Yellow
flowers are regular in dense terminal bracted racemes and bloom much of
the year. Capsules, 3.8-5 cm. (1½-2 in.) long, inflated, pendulous with
few seeds. Seed is dark brown, smooth with a prominent end-curved embryo
and matures throughout the year.

Source

On August 23, 1965, seed was collected from plants along Highway 138 near
Gorman, Los Angeles County, by California Department of Fish and Game
personnel. Elevation - 1160 m (3800 ft.). PL-261-65 was accession number
assigned.

Development of Plant

Seed from original plants was increased in 1966 from plants grown on the
Pleasanton Plant Materials Center, Alameda County. Gallon-can plants were
propagated from seed and these plants were used in secondary testing at
Sunol in 1966. It was tested at about 20 other field sites and subsequently
brought to Lockeford in 1973.

This accession has shown equal to superior performance to all collected native accessions to date in establishment, survival and use for upland game, erosion control and environmental enhancement.

Seed and Plant Production

This bladderpod accession is a good seed producer, with seed maturing throughout the year. However, seed harvests can be made periodically, but summer-fall harvests seem to be the heaviest. Mature seed is hand harvested periodically for optimum production. There are about 9900 seeds per kilogram (4500 seeds per pound). Seed is cleaned with a clipper-type cleaner using a No. 14 top screen and No. 8 bottom screen. Seed germination has varied from 75 to 90% with an after-ripening requirement of 3-4 months. Plants are propagated by direct seeding into containers in the greenhouse. Plants develop at a rapid rate and need to be moved into a larger container or to the field as growth progresses.

Seed Source

The Lockeford Plant Materials Center will be responsible for maintaining a supply of breeder seed. Limited numbers of live plants and seed will be available for establishing seed source nurseries for initial commercial production of plants during the 1979-80 season. Commercially available plants are expected for the 1980 season.

_____   10/4/79
Director, Ecological Sciences and   Date
    Technology Division
United States Department of Agriculture
Soil Conservation Service
Washington, D.C.

_____   July 20, 1979
State Conservationist   Date
United States Department of Agriculture
Soil Conservation Service
Davis, California

_____   9/14/79
Director   Date
California Agricultural Experiment Station
Berkeley, California

EC Fullerton   7-27-79
_____   Date
Director
California Department of Fish and Game
Sacramento, California

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