

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT AND APPLICATION, ECOLOGICAL SCIENCES
WASHINGTON, DC

and the

TEXAS AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE STATION, TX

and the

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT
AUSTIN TX

NOTICE OF RELEASE OF 'COMANCHE' PARTRIDGE PEA

The United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service; the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department announce the naming and release of 'Comanche' partridge pea (Cassia fasciculata Michx.). It was developed by the SCS, USDA, and released in cooperation with the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas, and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Austin, Texas. (Comanche has been assigned the permanent number PI-421727.)

Comanche partridge pea was collected from a native stand near Throckmorton, Throckmorton County, Texas, in 1968 by SCS personnel. It was evaluated with 5 other collections of partridge pea and proved to be the superior accession for use as a warm-season legume cover crop in revegetation of critical area and mined land revegetation work, as a wildlife food plant, and as a plant for beautification. It was increased from the original collection without re-selection.

Comanche is an annual warm-season legume that has been evaluated since 1970 for stand establishment, size, seed production, and overall vigor. The forage and seed was checked for toxic compounds and it was found to be nontoxic to livestock, humans, birds and other potential users. Even though recommended for other reasons, it can be seeded where livestock are grazing. Comanche's seed is used by quail, and it has the ability to reseed and cover bare areas on adapted sites. There are presently no released varieties of partridge pea.

Comanche has shown a much broader area of adaptation than the ordinary partridge pea, probably due to its introgression of the various botanical varieties that are included in this cultivar. Comanche has had varied successes on tighter soil textures such as clay loams but it does show better adaptation to lighter textured soils, including sands. Since it is a reseeding annual, rainfall plays an important role in the success of Comanche's establishment. It appears that 19 inches or more annual precipitation is needed for establishment. The area of adaptation of Comanche outside of Texas and Oklahoma has not been fully defined but evaluations in Kansas and Georgia indicate a very wide adaptation potential.

Notice of Release of 'Comanche' Partridge Pea (Continued)

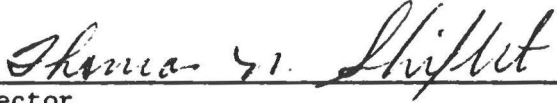
Four classes of seed will be recognized: Breeder, Foundation, Registered, and Certified. Breeder seed will be maintained by the Soil Conservation Service, Knox City Plant Materials Center, Knox City, Texas. Foundation seed will be produced at this location under the supervision of the Foundation Seed Service, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, College Station, Texas, and the Texas Department of Agriculture.



State Conservationist
Soil Conservation Service, Texas

FEB 11 1985


Date



Director
Ecological Sciences Division
Soil Conservation Service, Washington, DC

4/30/85


Date



Director
Texas Agricultural Experiment Station
College Station, Texas

4-8-85

Date



Head, Resource Management Section
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Austin, Texas

15 April 85

Date