

# Kisatchie NF and NF&Gs in Texas Native Seed Increase- Development of Regional Supplies of Native Plant Materials

## 2009 Accomplishments-Texas

The Kisatchie National Forests (KNF) in Louisiana and the National Forests & Grasslands in Texas (NFGT) in cooperation with the USDA-NRCS Plant Materials Program (PMP) are working together to develop native seed sources from local land resource areas across northern Louisiana and eastern Texas.

**Status of Project Accomplishment.** Partridge pea (*Chamaecrista fasciculata* (Michx.) Greene) will be established on an old abandoned well pad located in compartment 140 on the Sabine National Forest in Sabine County. The well pad is no longer in production. The site is approximately four miles northeast of Mayflower, Texas adjacent to Forest Service (FS) road 196b. This will be done in order to create a seed production area for future wildlife and erosion control projects on the forest.

Partridge pea is common on sandy to sandy loam soils and has low water requirements. Soils in this area are sandy to sandy loam. The well pad is approximately five acres in size. Soils on this well site have been evaluated to determine rehabilitation needs. Fertilizer and ground limestone will have to be worked into the soils before seeding.

Loblolly pine trees ranging from 2 to 12 feet in height have naturally regenerated on approximately three acres of the site. Partridge pea requires full sun so these pine seedlings and saplings have been removed so that the entire five acres can be used for seed production. The trees have been piled and will be burned. Once cleared, the soil will be disked and the fertilizer and limestone tilled in. The area will then be seeded with partridge pea. The site will be lightly tilled annually to maintain plant production. Partridge pea seed has been procured from a local seed source for initial planting and a seed harvester has been purchased to facilitate harvests in the future.

Partridge pea is considered an excellent species for planting on disturbed areas for erosion control and improving soil fertility. It establishes rapidly, fixes nitrogen, and reseeds. The seed is one of the major food items of northern bobwhite and other bird species as it remains sound throughout the winter and early spring.



Figure 1. Partridge Pea . Photo by John M. Row, USDA NRCS Manhattan Plant Materials Center

### Native Plant Program

- **Total Native Seed Project Cost: \$38,000**
- **Type of Project: Cooperatively increase seed sources for use in similar habitats across multiple administrative units.**
- **For More Information, Contact: Tom Philipps 1-936-639-8514**



Planting Site



Planting Site



**National Forests and  
Grasslands in Texas**  
415 South First St.  
Lufkin, Texas 75901