

Description

'Dove' proso millet (*Panicum miliaceum* L.) is an introduction by Pandit Ramdott Chilkoti of Almora Providence India. It is a quick maturing, upright, summer annual grass. Dove proso will grow to a height of four feet on a soil having good moisture and high fertility. The plant produces heavy stems with long, drooping leaves that are light green in color. It has a high stem to leaf ratio and produces only a few tillers per plant. Seed are light straw color borne on large, very drooping panicles. Seed mature in 65 to 75 days from time of planting and seed production can be as high as 2,000 pounds per acre.



Development and Adaptation

Dove proso was selected from 36 accessions of *Panicum miliaceum* at Plant Materials Centers (PMC) in Americus, Georgia, Brooksville, Florida

and Coffeeville, Mississippi. It was superior in growth and seed production during three years of evaluation. This cultivar is adapted to most well drained, fertile soils from eastern Oklahoma and Texas to North Carolina and south to the Gulf Coast. It is not well adapted at the peninsular of Florida.

Establishment and Management

Planting Site: Seedbed preparation should begin well in advance of planting. Prior to planting, the site should be firm and have accumulated soil moisture. Plant to sites as free of weeds as possible; especially avoid heavy infestations of crabgrass. The planting site should be within .5 mile of a water supply for dove utilization. **Size of planting:** A minimum of 5 acres should be planted to attract enough doves for managed hunts. **Rate of Seeding:** Drill 6 pounds of Dove proso seed per acre or broadcast 12 pounds per acre. **Fertilization:** Apply 200 to 500 pounds of a 6-12-12 fertilizer per acre at planting time. **Weed and Insect Control:** Several herbicides can be used to control weeds on grass crops. Also if insects such as chinch-bugs become a problem, insecticides can be used. Consult your local Extension Service for recommend pesticides. Cultivation can be used to control weeds if Dove proso is planted in rows. **Date of planting:**

(For most wildlife species) North Alabama and North Georgia from May 15-June 10; central Alabama and central Georgia from April 15- June 10; South Alabama and South Georgia from March 15- June 10. **(For dove only)** June 1– June 10 area wide.



Conservation Uses

Dove proso is primarily planted for mourning doves. However some biologists have reported bobwhite quail are also attracted to the millet. The ability of this grass to produce mature seed within 65 to 75 days after planting provides the wildlife manager with flexibility to maximize hunting opportunities, especially for mourning doves.

Availability

Breeder seed of Dove proso millet is being maintained at the Jimmy Carter PMC in Americus, Georgia. Several seed dealers throughout the southern states supply Dove proso millet to the public. Contact the PMC for vendors of Dove proso millet.



For More Information

Jimmy Carter Plant Materials Center
295 Morris Drive
Americus, Georgia 31719
Phone: 229-924-4499
<http://plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov/gapmc/>

OR Contact

Your local USDA Natural Resources
Conservation Service Office

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Proso Millet
Panicum miliaceum L.



**Jimmy Carter
Plant Materials Center
Americus, Georgia**