BeeWild Bundleflower: A new Forage Legume for the Semiarid South. (C06-ocumpaugh634936-oral)

Authors:
- W.R. Ocumpaugh* - Texas A&M Univ.
- L. Zibilske - USDA-ARS, Weslaco, TX
- W.J. Grichar - Texas A&M Univ.

Abstract:
‘BeeTAM-06’, ‘BeeTAM-08’, ‘BeeTAM-37’, and ‘BeeTAM-57’ bundleflowers (Desmanthus bicornutus) were released by The Texas Agricultural Experiment Station in May of 2003 and are marketed as a mechanical blend under the Trademarked name ‘BeeWild’. Each cultivar in the blend has unique characteristics that will have advantages over planting a single cultivar. The species is native to the USA and Mexico. The cultivars were developed at Beeville, TX from material collected in Mexico. BeeWild does best on heavier soils, with a pH of 6.0 or higher. BeeWild is a summer growing perennial legume with: excellent drought tolerance; good seedling vigor; a high level of hard seed; excellent seed production; and does not cause bloat. The crude protein is near 20% and fiber is low. BeeWild is palatable to both domestic livestock and wildlife, and should improve livestock and wildlife performance in the semiarid, as well as, more humid parts of the region. Bundleflower plantings make excellent habitat for quail, as the plant is open underneath the canopy for easy movement by the small birds. BeeWild requires a specific strain of inoculum (CB3126) to maximize the growth response. For weed control during establishment Pursuit has proven to be effective.

Speaker Information: William Ocumpaugh, Texas A&M Univ., 3507 Hwy 59 E, Beeville, TX 78102; Phone: 361-358-6390; E-mail: ocumpaugh@bcni.net

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