L-2066
February 1983

RAINBOW Wild Plum

- Wildlife food and cover
- Erosion control on surface-mined lands
- Diversity for landscaping and beautification purposes
- Adapted throughout Texas

The Texas Agricultural Experiment Station
Neville P. Clarke, Director, College Station, Texas
The Texas A&M University System
In cooperation with Soil Conservation Service
U. S. Department of Agriculture

'RAINBOW'
Wild Plum

'Rainbow,' a native wild plum (*Prunus* spp., principally *P. angustifolia* Marsh.), has been released by the Soil Conservation Service in cooperation with the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station and the Texas Forest Service.

Origin

Rainbow is a mixture of four wild plum collections made at different locations throughout Texas.

Description

Rainbow is a hardy, slightly suckering, small shrubby plant seldom reaching 10 feet in height. Rainbow has a compact, rounded shape with branches near the ground. A white to pinkish bloom appears in March. Varicolored fruit, deep yellow to bright red, is produced, ripening from June through September.

Uses

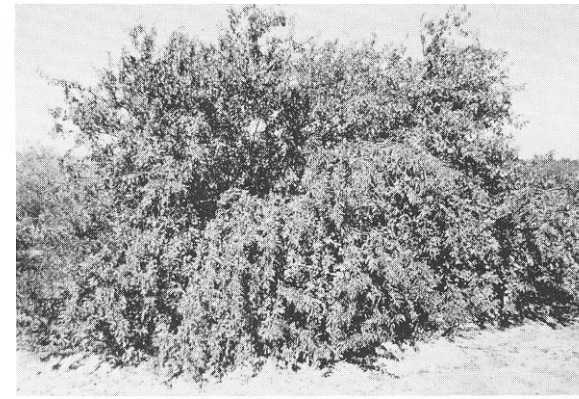
Rainbow has various conservation uses. Fruit ripens from June to October, providing wildlife with food for a much longer period than native plums of the area. Low branches make excellent cover for small animals and game birds, and multistemmed branches make a good nesting site for songbirds. Planted in motts, Rainbow provides excellent erosion control and plant diversity for surface-mined areas. Early spring blooms followed by the multicolored fruit make Rainbow attractive for landscape and farmstead shelterbelt purposes.

Establishment

Rainbow is easily established from seed. Fruit can be gathered when mature and flesh removed by hand or machine. Clean seed should be dried and stored in a cool, preferably dark, container. The seed can be stratified before planting; however, good germination can be obtained without it. Seed can be planted in April or May and requires little care except for occasional watering during dry periods. Plants can also be established from root sprouts. This should be done in late fall, after frost and before leaf formation in the spring. For erosion control, Rainbow should be planted in compact groups or motts on 2- to 3-foot centers.

Seed/Plant Availability

The original seed trees are maintained by the Soil Conservation Service Plant Materials Center in Knox City, Texas. Seedlings are available from the Texas Forest Service, Route 3, Box 216, Lubbock, Texas 79401. Commercial nurserymen interested in establishing a production block to produce seed for their own use should request seed from the Knox City Plant Materials Center, Route 1, Box 155, Knox City, Texas 79529.



Rainbow wild plum, late maturity

For additional information, contact
Soil Conservation Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
P.O. Box 648
Temple, Texas 76503

Mention of a trademark or a proprietary product does not constitute a guarantee or a warranty of the product by The Texas Agricultural Experiment Station or the U.S. Department of Agriculture and does not imply its approval to the exclusion of other products that also may be suitable.

All programs and information of The Texas Agricultural Experiment Station are available to everyone without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, or national origin.

10M—2-83