

FALSE RHODES GRASS

Chloris crinita Lag.

Plant Symbol = CHCR

Contributed by: USDA NRCS Kika de la Garza Plant
Materials Center



USDA NRCS Kika de la Garza Plant Materials Center
Kingsville, Texas

Alternate Names

Chloris mendocina Phil., *Trichloris crinita* (Lag.)
Parodi, *Trichloris mendocina* (Phil.) Kurtz, two
flower trichloris

Uses

False Rhodes grass should be used primarily as a
component in seed mixtures for range restoration. It
has potential for use in pasture plantings, filterstrips,
erosion control plantings, and landscaping.

Status

Please consult the PLANTS Web site and your State
Department of Natural Resources for this plant's

current status (e.g. threatened or endangered species,
state noxious status, and wetland indicator values).

Description

False Rhodes grass (*Chloris crinita*) is a native,
warm-season perennial bunchgrass. It grows 1 to 2
feet tall, with leaves 3 to 8 inches long. The upper
sides of the leaf blades are hairy near the base. Plants
produce dense, feathery, 1- to 2-inch long seedheads
that turn from green to light brown at maturity.

Adaptation and Distribution

False Rhodes grass grows best on sandy to sandy
loam soils, and it will tolerate soils that are weakly
saline. Its natural range is south of San Antonio,
Texas in the western two-thirds of the Rio Grande
Plain of Texas on west to Arizona.

For a current distribution map, please consult the
Plant Profile page for this species on the PLANTS
Website.

Establishment

Seedbed preparation should begin well in advance of
planting. Planting can be scheduled for early spring
or where there are few cool-season weeds, false
Rhodes grass can be planted in the fall. Establish a
clean, weed-free seedbed by either tillage or
herbicides. Prior to planting, the site should be firm
and have accumulated soil moisture.

False Rhodes grass is best seeded using a native-
grass drill with picker wheels to ensure a good
planting of the fluffy seed. Broadcast seeding may
be used in areas not easily planted with a drill, but
some type of additional coverage will be beneficial to
ensure good seed to soil contact.

Seed should be planted 1/8 to 1/4 inch deep. It is
better to plant too shallow than too deep. A seeding
rate of 1 pound of pure live seed (PLS) per acre is
recommended. In planting mixtures reduce the rate
according to the percent of false Rhodes grass in the
mixture.

Soil analysis should be performed prior to planting to
determine the necessary levels of nitrogen,
phosphorus and potassium. Nitrogen should not be
applied until the stand is established. If 1 to 2 plants
per square foot are present than the planting has been
successful.

Management

False Rhodes grass should not be grazed the first year. After a stand is established, either continuous or rotational grazing can be used. It is recommended that a minimum 6-inch stubble height be maintained under continuous grazing. For rotational grazing, forage height should be utilized between 4 to 10 inches.

Cultivars, Improved, and Selected Materials (and area of origin)

Kinney Germplasm (Brackettville, Kinney County, Texas) false Rhodes grass was released by the Kika de la Garza Plant Materials Center in 1999. It was selected for its survivability, good seedling and plant vigor, forage production and drought tolerance. It is predominantly adapted to clay loam, claypan prairie, and tight sandy loam range sites.

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For more information about this and other plants, please contact your local NRCS field office or Conservation District, and visit the PLANTS Web site <<http://plants.usda.gov>> or the Plant Materials Program Web site <<http://Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov>>

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