VINE MESQUITE

*Panicum obtusum* Kunth

Plant symbol = PAOB

*Contributed By: USDA NRCS National Plant Data Center*

---

**Alternate Names**

vine-mesquite, panic grass, vine mesquite grass

**Uses**

Grazing is the primary use of vine mesquite, but it has been cut for hay. It is used to control erosion in waterways and small gullies. Quail and doves eat the seed in the fall and early winter.

**Status**

Please consult the PLANTS Web site and your State Department of Natural Resources for this plant’s current status, such as, state noxious status, and wetland indicator values.

**Description**

Grass Family (Poaceae). Vine mesquite is a native, warm-season, stoloniferous perennial. The height ranges from 1-1/2 to 2-1/2 feet. The leaf blade is long; narrow, upright, and smooth. The leaf sheath is mostly basal and one-half to three-fourths as long as the internodes. The stolon is several feet long with long internodes, the nodes swollen and covered with hair. The seedhead has a narrow panicle 1 to 4 inches long with the spikelets large, nearly round, and brownish.

**Management**

This grass is seldom abundant enough to be a key management species. Generally, it is less palatable than most grasses associated with it therefore, it is seldom overgrazed. When used for hay or erosion control, grazing should be deferred until after seed production.

**Establishment**

Growth starts in April or May. It produces seedheads in July and August. The seeds are slow to disseminate. It reproduces from both stolons and seed. It is often associated with other grasses, but grows in more or less pure stands. It grows mostly in small depressions or along drainageways where water accumulates. It grows best on sandy to sandy loam soils, but also grows on clay loams and gravelly loams.

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

Please contact your local NRCS Field Office.

**Reference**


**Prepared By & Species Coordinator:**

Percy Magee

USDA NRCS National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Edited: 13may02 ahv; jul03 ahv; 20sep05 jsp
For more information about this and other plants, please contact your local NRCS field office or Conservation District, and visit the PLANTS <http://plants.usda.gov> and Plant Materials Program Web sites <http://Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov>.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA’s TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.