# GRINDELIA CAMPORUM E. GREENE VAR. CAMPORUM

**COMMON NAME: GREAT VALLEY GUMWEED** 

FAMILY: ASTERACEAE

GROWTH FORM: PERENNIAL HERB



#### **PLANTING**

During January 2003, seeds were hand-sown onto mounded planting beds, and a thin layer of soil was then raked over them. The seeds germinated readily without any form of pre-treatment. The first seed harvest from the plants was made during October 2003. The Tranquillity area has a semi-arid climate with low mean annual precipitation. However, the 2002-03 growing season was a favorable year for plant establishment at the nursery. Total precipitation received during the 2002-03 hydrologic year (1 August 2002 through 31 July 2003), 17.6 cm, was 80.2% of the 30-year mean<sup>1</sup>, and precipitation received during April and May of 2003 was above average (California Irrigation Management Information System, Station #105). If G. camporum seeds had been sown in a year with precipitation that was far below average, establishment may not have been as successful.

#### **PHENOLOGY**

G. camporum germinates from seed or produces a basal rosette from underground rhizomes between February and April. Peak flowering time for this species is from July to August. Fruits begin to mature in mid-September and can typically be collected through October. During winter, the aboveground growth dies back, but plants will re-grow from underground rhizomes during the following spring.

#### SEED HARVESTING

Seeds are mature and ready for collection when the disk flowers have dried and turned brown, and the seeds can be easily separated from the receptacle. Plants typically have multiple flowers and each flower will mature (i.e., produce

<sup>1</sup> The annual and monthly means were calculated using 30 years of precipitation data (1976-2006) from four weather stations (Cooperative Station ID #'s 43083, 45118, 45119, 45120) located in the western San Joaquin Valley.

seeds) at a different time. Therefore, seed collection on multiple dates is ideal in order to capture both early and late maturing seeds. Seed heads can be clipped off plants or mature seeds can be shaken or rubbed off the seed head by hand into a collecting bag or envelope. Harvested plant material is transported to a warehouse and allowed to air dry, before seed processing.

#### **SEED PROCESSING METHODS**

If entire seed heads have been collected, we rub the harvested plant material over a screen or sieve to release seeds from the receptacle. Following this, seeds can be separated from chaff using sieves of different mesh size or an air screen cleaner such as a Clipper Office Tester (made by the A.T. Ferrell company). An air separator (Seed Tech Systems, LLC.) can be used to remove additional lightweight chaff.

### **CULTIVATION OVERVIEW**

Several *G. camporum* individuals derived from two wild source populations have been established in the nursery since 2003, and have produced seed nearly every year. The species has spread a short distance from its original planted area through seed dispersal.

During the 2006-07 growing season when only 7.01 cm (2.76 in) of rain were received between 1 October 2006 and 31 September 2007, very few *G. camporum* individuals reached flowering stage.

#### RESEARCH ON GRINDELIA CAMPORUM

The species has been identified as a potential commercial crop because the resin produced on its stems, leaves, and involucres may have industrial applications (Hofmann and McLaughlin, 1986). The germination requirements, salinity tolerance, and resin production of *G. camporum* have been studied in order to determine the possibility of cultivating the species on arid lands and/or saline soils (see references below). *G. camporum* was utilized in a study that evaluated the potential for activated charcoal to protect native seeds from the effects of pre-emergent herbicides (Lair et al., 2006).

# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT GRINDELIA CAMPORUM VAR. CAMPORUM:

# Internet Resources

Species profile from the Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center at the University of Texas: http://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id\_plant=GRCA

Species profile from the Ransom Seed Laboratory: http://www.ransomseedlab.com/genus/g/grindelia\_camporum.htm

Species profile on Plants for a Future Database: http://www.pfaf.org/database/plants.php?Grindelia+camporum

Seed photos from the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden: http://www.hazmac.biz/070122/070122GrindeliaCamporum.html

Fact Sheet from Purdue University Center for New Crops and Plant Products:

http://www.hort.purdue.edu/newcrop/cropfactsheets/grindelia.html

http://esrp.csustan.edu/vfpc

#### Literature

- Hoffmann, J. J., and S. P. McLaughlin. 1986. *Grindelia* camporum: potential cash crop for the arid southwest. Economic Botany 40: 162-169.
- Lair, K., N. Ritter, and A. Howard. 2006. Use of activated charcoal to protect native seeds from herbicides (California). Ecological Restoration 24:122-124.
- McLaughlin, S. P., and J. D. Linker. 1987. Agronomic studies on gumweed: seed germination, planting density, planting dates, and biomass and resin production. Field Crops Research 15: 357-367.
- Ravetta, D.A., S.P. McLaughlin, and J.W. O'Leary. 1997. Evaluation of salt tolerance and resin production in coastal and Central Valley accessions of *Grindelia* species (Asteraceae). Madroño 44: 74-88.
- Zafar, S. I., W. H. Shah, and Z. U. Rehman. 1994. Studies on achene germination, transplantability, salinity tolerance, and cultivation of gumweed (*Grindelia camporum*) in hot and semi-arid conditions. Field Crops Research 37: 77-84.

## PREPARED BY

Brianna D. Borders, Restoration Botanist.

Other Contributors: Dr. Nur Ritter, Justine Kokx, Adrian Howard, and Graham Biddy.

#### **Рното**ѕ

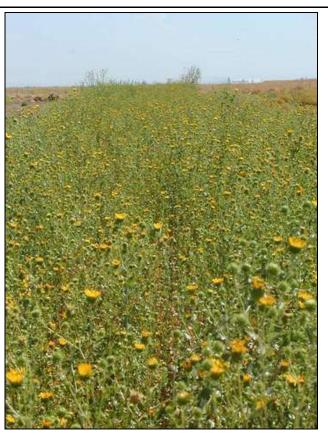


G. camporum in cultivation at the native plant nursery.









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G. camporum seeds. Scale shown is millimeters.



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