



Clam Lagoon Germplasm beach fleabane *Senecio pseudoarnica* Selected Class Release “Natural”

Uses: Revegetation Throughout Coastal Alaska

Background Information

Beach fleabane is a perennial that flowers from July to August. Its bright yellow flowers stand out along the coastal shoreline.

Senecio pseudoarnica has many common names. It is also known as beach groundsel and seaside ragwort.

Growing on gravelly and sandy seashores, beach fleabane withstands the salt spray from the ocean.



Map from Hultén, 1968.
Used with the permission of Stanford University Press.

Distribution

Senecio pseudoarnica is widely distributed on the shores of the eastern and western Pacific and the western Atlantic oceans.

Growth

Beach fleabane’s wind-blown seed can find niches for growth in sunny, inhospitable soil. The plant develops a taproot which drills deep into the earth for water.

Senecio pseudoarnica has fleshy stems and many basal olive-green leaves. Once established it will live for many years.

Clam Lagoon Germplasm beach fleabane

Plant Identification Number: 9097743

Clam Lagoon Germplasm beach fleabane was collected on Adak Island, Alaska, in 1993 by Stoney Wright of the Alaska Plant Materials Center (PMC) (Wright, 2005).

This native herb is a Selected Class Release by the PMC. This means it has been grown and harvested at the PMC and continues to preserve its excellent performance.

This fleabane is recommended for use in revegetation because its seedlings are vigorous and will grow in most conditions.



Interesting Note:

Beach fleabane leaves are used by the Aleuts to help the healing of wounds. The fleshy stems and leaves were boiled for food (Moerman, 1998).

Clam Lagoon Germplasm
beach fleabane
is maintained by the
Alaska Plant Materials Center
for commercial production.

Alaska Plant Materials Center

Serving Alaska’s needs in production of Alaska native plants

July 17, 2007



Clam Lagoon Germplasm beach fleabane

Clam Lagoon Germplasm beach fleabane for Alaska Revegetation Purposes

*Clam Lagoon Germplasm beach fleabane
will add diversity and color to the revegetation results.*

It grows well in the sun on sandy or gravelly soils. *Senecio* is known to be tolerant of hydrocarbons, such as crude oil (Tutin et.al., 1976).

Clam Lagoon Germplasm beach fleabane is also resistant to saline conditions—especially ocean spray.

The U.S. Department of Transportation (Federal Highway Administration, Alaska, 1998) lists beach fleabane for roadside use in revegetation projects.



To Produce Clam Lagoon Germplasm beach fleabane

Plant seed in well-drained, sandy soil in a sunny area. Plant seed very shallowly (Plants for a Future, 2005).

Seedling vigor is fast and good. It grows best with irrigation, cultivation of weeds, and fertilization.

Harvest seeds by hand or machine in late August. Seed is fragile, so care should be taken when cleaning. This is a perennial which will produce for many years.



Senecio pseudoarnica seeds
~ 183,793 seeds per pound

*Clam Lagoon Germplasm beach
fleabane in production at the
Alaska Plant Materials Center, Palmer.*

References

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