



Achyrochaena mollis

“Blow Wives”

By Rebecca Gross

Description^[1,3]

- Annual flowering dicot
- Asteraceae family
- Inconspicuous yellow inflorescence
 - Ray and disc flowers
- Disc achenes with shiny, white pappus scales- showy part!
- Edible seeds



ASTERACEAE



Achyrachaena mollis
(BLOW WIVES)



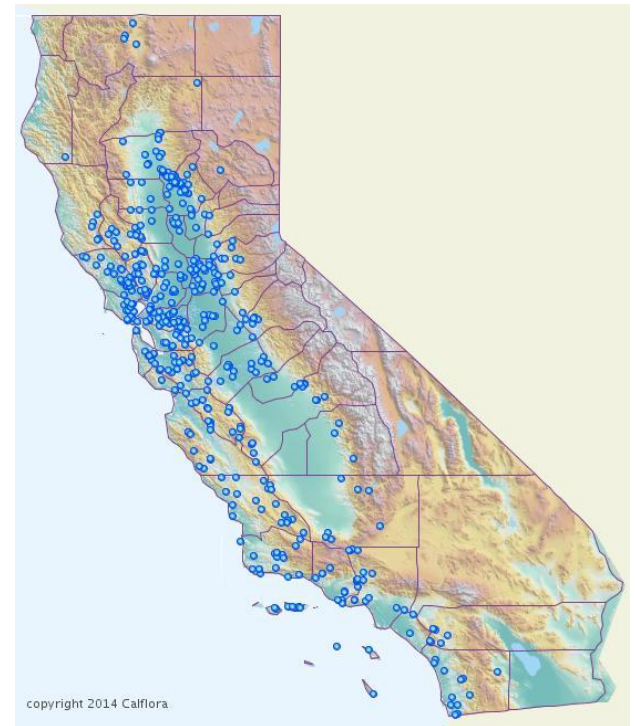


<http://nathistoc.bio.uci.edu/plants/Asteraceae/Achyrachaena%20mollis.htm>



Native Habitat^[1,2]

- California grasslands, Oregon
- Very adaptable
- Low elevations, foothills
- Germinates with the rainy season (Jan-Feb)
- Blooms March-May (11-13 hour day lengths)
- Can be weedy





<http://www.flickr.com/photos/38213125@N00/188972227/in/photostream/>

Proposed Schedule

- Started week 10
- Stratification for 2 weeks
- Transplant by week 14
- Visible flower buds by week 17
- Bloom by week 20
- CLF fertilizer 125 ppm N 15-5-15
- Greenhouse conditions

Results: Germination

Weeks since Sow Date (3/4/14)	Germination for Stratified Seeds	Germination for Non-stratified Seeds
1	0	0
2	4	0
3	31	0
4	31	0

Results: Photoperiod Requirements

- Long day treatment initiated flower buds on 14 of 16 plants.
- Short day treatment had 0 flower buds
- Some error possibilities



Further Research

- Further investigation into production schedule
- Determine photoperiodism
- Examine invasive tendencies
- Drought tolerance
- Suitability for pots
- Breeding efforts
 - Showier flowers
 - Consistently full seed heads

Why grow *A. mollis*?

- Unique
- Potted arrangements
- Long “bloom” time
- Drought tolerant?
- Adaptable
- Easy to grow



Literature Cited

1. Keil, D.J. Baldwin, B. G. 2012. *Achyrachaena*, in Jepson Flora Project (eds.) *Jepson eFlora*, http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/cgi-bin/get_IJM.pl?tid=703, accessed on Apr 18 2014.
1. National Weather Service Forecast Office. "[San Joaquin Valley/Hanford, CA](http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/hnx/)". <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/hnx/>, accessed Apr 18 2014.
1. Goodchild, P. *Survival Skills of the North American Indians*. 1999. Second Edition. Chicago Review Press, Chicago, IL. p. 209.