

## **Advanced Evaluation and Seed Increase of White Tridens**

*Anthony D. Falk, Keith A. Pawelek, Forrest S. Smith, Robert Obregon, Mia McCraw, and Colin S. Shackelford*

White tridens is a widespread perennial warm season grass that is adapted to clayey soils and moist soil conditions. These characteristics make white tridens an excellent candidate for revegetation of transportation right-of-ways, particularly bar ditches, that are used to control water flows and that are subject to inundation. White tridens is also commonly competitive with invasive Old World Bluestems that also grow well in similar soil conditions.

Following 2 years of plot evaluations of collections obtained throughout the state, *Texas Native Seeds* chose to increase 5 promising collections of white tridens originating from south, central, and west Texas. These 5 collections were selected for advanced evaluation and seed increase based on drought hardiness, biomass production, and active seed germination.

This spring we established initial seed increase plots of 100 plants of each selected population in isolation to preserve the integrity of each original collected population. *Texas Native Seeds* plans to intensively produce seed from each of these 5 collections, and increase plots sizes to around 1,500 plants per population. Pending successful seed production and research to determine economical and practical commercial production methods, we hope to make a seed release of white tridens in 2015. At that time seed will be made available to commercial seed growers for large scale production.

*Cooperative funding provided by the Texas Department of Transportation, Lee and Ramona Bass Foundation, Robert J. Kleberg Jr. and Helen C. Kleberg Foundation, Ewing Halsell Foundation, Faye L. and William L. Cowden Foundation, Dixon Water Foundation, Caesar Kleberg Partners, Will Harte, and donors to South Texas Natives and Texas Native Seeds.*