

Central Texas Native Seeds Project Seed Collection Update

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Since the project began in 2010, one of the main priorities of *Texas Native Seeds* has been to obtain quality seed collections from native populations of species for which there is a need for commercial seed supplies. The Central Texas portion of the project contains 67 counties and numerous eco-regions. Native seed collections made in this area will provide TNS researchers with the materials needed to grow, evaluate, and select populations to develop and release to the commercial seed market for large scale production.

As the extreme drought of 2011-2012 eased in parts of Central Texas, collection numbers have grown to a current total of 632 seed collections comprised of 510 grass species and 122 legumes & forbs. Private land access has been integral to the success of TNS project collection goals. Overwhelming support for the project has been received from private landowners in response to the presentations, field workshops, and publications presented by TNS. Staffs from USDA NRCS and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department have also facilitated valuable landowner contacts and access. With the increase in consistent rainfall across much of the Central Texas region in 2014, TNS staff hopes to double collection numbers by the end of 2014.

New native seed collections made through the support and access provided by private landowners, conservation professionals, and cooperative agencies should have huge impacts on improving commercial availability of native seeds for restoration use in Central Texas.

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