

Commercial Seed Production of South Texas Native Seed Releases

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Commercial seed producers once again set records in production and sales of native seeds released by *South Texas Natives*, the USDA NRCS E. “Kika” de la Garza Plant Materials Center, and Texas A&M AgriLife Experiment Research Station-Beeville. Commercial seed producers produced seed of 22 different species, and total production was just short of 50,000 pounds of South Texas native plant seed releases in 2013. Seed companies are communicating a strong market with major seed use sectors including reclamation needs in the Eagle Ford Shale and wildlife habitat restoration on privately owned rangelands.

Weather permitting, seed production in 2014 should reach new milestones once again. Douglass King Seed Company continues to increase acreage of our most recent seed releases, including a number of grasses, and several forb and legume seed releases such as awnless bushsunflower, bundleflower, redseed and Hooker plantains, and Rio Grande clammyweed. Douglass King Seed Company is also working with STN personnel to add more acreage of some of the most highly sought after species, including pink and whiplash pappusgrass seed releases, and multiflowered false Rhodesgrass. In spring 2014, a multi-acre seed increase of a new release, Carrizo Germplasm little bluestem, was established. Limited amounts of seed of this selection should be marketed as early as the spring of 2015. With the increase in production scale, seed prices have seen a slight drop in unit price, however demand has resulted in some leveling in seed prices in the last year.

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