

## **Development of additional seed production acreage at the South Texas Natives Farm**

*Keith A. Pawelek, Forrest S. Smith and Anthony D. Falk*

Over the past several years the *South Texas Natives* Farm, located at the Tio and Janell Kleberg Wildlife Research Center has been an instrumental facility for the success of the *South Texas Natives* and *Texas Native Seeds* Projects. Research activities at the farm include evaluation and selection of new collections of native species for future seed releases, advanced evaluation of potential releases, and seed increase for commercialization of releases. The site is also used for experimental plot studies, equipment storage, seed cleaning, seed storage, and as a site for greenhouses and shade houses. With all these activities taking place on a 10 acre site, space was becoming limited. In 2013, *South Texas Natives* was granted a request to develop additional adjoining land for research needs. The following was completed over the winter and spring of 2013-2014.

- After elevation studies, and soil analyses, 9 acres of land were cleared of brush, hayed, and broken for cultivation.
- New acreage was precision leveled to allow flood irrigation and site drainage, then deep ripped to alleviate soil compaction and improve soil tilth.
- We installed underground irrigation infrastructure, allowing both flood and sprinkler irrigation.
- The added acreage was bedded for planting, assigned to various research blocks, and a cover crop or new seed increase fields were planted.

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