Landscaping with native Grasses

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South Texas Natives
• STN formalized in 2001 by founding grant from the Robert J. Kleberg, Jr. and Helen C. Kleberg Foundation
• 2001: commercial seeds of native plants for south Texas were not available—the looming IH-69 corridor brought persistent concerns about a lack of native seed to the forefront
• Pasture, rangeland, restoration, and reclamation plantings used exotic grass seed
• Landowners and agencies desired native seeds for these uses, but could not obtain them
• Allow multiple use of the landscape
• Best meet habitat requirements of wildlife
• Support today’s economic opportunities (hunting, wildlife, ecotourism, and other forms of outdoor recreation)
• Facilitate ecosystem services (water, pollination, biodiversity, carbon sequestration, clean air, etc.)

Why native plants?
• Few (if any) demonstrated benefits to wildlife
• Limit biodiversity and multiple use
• Tendency to spread from areas they are planted to
• Gradual, yet profound alteration of ecosystem processes
• Shift in landowner goals and objectives
• Change in economic factors benefitting ranches

Why not exotic plants?
• Mimic nature
• Layer
• Still needs some care
What plants should I use?

- Plants native to your area
- Preferably from seed or plant stock from your area
- Proven releases or cultivars for your area
- Grasses that meet your criteria (annual, perennial, warm season, cool season)
Things to think about

- Desired look
- Size
- Desired maintenance
- Water requirements
- Desired timeline (Transplants, Seed)
- Landscape properties (Soil, Sunlight)
Native plants still need water!
Native Garden Rio Grande Valley
Sand Dune Landscape
Landscape bed
Side Walk
Water Feature
• *Setaria leucopila*
• Perennial
• 2-4 feet tall
• Warm season
• *Catarina Blend bristlegrass*
- *Bouteloua curtipendula*
- Perennial
- 2-3 feet tall
- Warm season

- *South Texas Germplasm sideoats grama*
- *Bouteloua repens*
- Perennial
- 1-2 feet tall
- Warm season

- *Dilley Germplasm*
  *slender grama*
• *Bouteloua rididiseta*
• Perennial
• .5-1.5 feet tall
• Warm season

• *Atasocosa Germplasm Texas grama*

**Texas Grama**
- *Bouteloua hirsuta*
- Perennial
- 1-2 feet tall
- Warm season

- *Chaparral Germplasm hairy grama*
Pink Pappusgrass

- *Pappophorum bicolor*
- Perennial
- 2-4 feet tall
- Warm season

- **Maverick Germplasm pink pappusgrass**
- *Pappophorum vaginatum*
- Perennial
- 2-4 feet tall
- Warm season

- *Webb Germplasm*
  - whiplash
  - pappusgrass

**Whiplash pappusgrass**
- *Trichloris crinita*
- Perennial
- 2-5 feet tall
- Warm season

- *Kinney Germplasm false Rhodes grass*
- *Chloris subdolichostachya*
- Perennial
- 2-3 feet tall
- Warm season

*Welder Germplasm shortspike windmillgrass*
• *Chloris cucullata*
• Perennial
• 2-3 feet tall
• Warm season

• *Mariah Germplasm hooded windmillgrass*
- *Panicum hallii*
- Perennial
- 0.5-3 feet tall
- Warm season

- Oso Germplasm
- Hall’s panicum

Halls Panicum
- *Sporobolus wrightii*
- Perennial
- 3-8 feet tall
- Warm season
- *Falfurrias Germplasm big sacaton*
- *Digitaria californica*
- Perennial
- 3-5 feet tall
- Warm season

- *La Salle Germplasm*
  Arizona cottontop
- *Trichloris pluriflora*
- Perennial
- 3-5 feet tall
- Warm season

- *Hildago Germplasm multiflower false Rhodes grass*

**Multiflower False Rhodes Grass (Four flower trichloris)**
• *Elymus canadensis*
• Perennial
• 2-4 feet tall
• Cool season

• *Lavaca Germplasm Canada wildrye*
- *Sorghastrum nutans*
- Perennial
- 3-5 feet tall
- Warm season
• *Schizachyrium scoparium*
• Perennial
• 2-4 feet tall
• Warm season

Little Bluestem
- **Andropogon gerardii**
- Perennial
- 3-6 feet tall
- Warm season
Brownseed Paspalum

- *Paspalum plicatulum*
- Perennial
- 2-4 feet tall
- Warm season
- *Andropogon glomeratus*
- Perennial
- 2-4 feet tall
- Warm season

**Bushy Bluestem**
Eastern Gamagrass

- *Tripsacum dactyloides*
- Perennial
- 3-5 feet tall
- Warm season
- *Spartina spartinae*
- Perennial
- 2-4 feet tall
- Warm season
Muhlenbergia capillaris
Perennial
1-3 feet tall
Warm season

Gulf Muhly
Inland Sea Oats

- *Chasmanthium latifolium*
- Perennial
- 1-3 feet tall
- Cool season
• *Tridens muticus*
• Perennial
• 1-3 feet tall
• Warm season
• *Panicum virgatum*
• Perennial
• 3-5 feet tall
• Warm season
• *Aristida purpurea*
• Perennial
• .5-2 feet tall
• Warm season
• *Buchloe dactyloides*
• Perennial
• .2-1 feet tall
• Warm season
• Often used for lawns
- *Hilaria belangeri*
- Perennial
- .2-1.5 feet tall
- Warm season

**Curly mesquite**
• Seed blends
  ◦ Habiturf
    • Blue grama %
    • Buffalograss
    • Curly mesquite
    • Hairy grama
    • Texas grama
  ◦ Thunder turf

• Sod or plug types
  ◦ Turffalo
  ◦ Density
  ◦ KR?
Questions