South Texas Natives
&
Texas Native Seeds

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The Agents of change
Our Mission

1. Develop regionally adapted native seed sources
2. Conduct research on native plant restoration and reclamation techniques
3. Educate constituents and the general public about the uses of native plants and value of restoration and reclamation practices that use them.
How we develop a native seed source:
Example: Pink Pappusgrass (*Pappophorum bicolor*)
Collection

2001-04
Native Seed Collection Sites

Legend
- Evaluation Sites
- Collection Sites

Map showing collection sites across a region.
Initial Evaluation
Advanced Evaluation

- Isolated seed increase and production evaluations
- Commercial producer trials

- Field plantings and monitoring
Seed Increase-7 populations

9090676-Maverick
9089079-Webb
9090405-Kinney
9088912-Dimmit
9085324-Uvalde
9090481-Starr
9090520-Duval
Release and Commercialization
Native seed certification is important
Cost per acre

- Uncertified field grown: Turner Seed Company
- Certified field grown: Douglass King Seed Company
- Uncertified wild harvest: Native American Seed Company
The Eagle Ford Shale
Eagle Ford Shale Pipeline Right of Way
Installed Fall 2012, Seeded February 2012
Picture Taken September 2012

Reseeded with South Texas Natives Seeds

Not Reseeded
Texas Department of Transportation

• 13 year partnership
• 2001- available native seeds worked poorly on South Texas roadsides
• 2011-new seeding specifications-native grasses now used by TxDOT were made available by South Texas Natives
• *Initiated Texas Native Seeds in 2010*
TxDOT Seeding Specifications—Corpus Christi District—Sandy soils

- **1995**
  - Green sprangletop
  - Bermudagrass
  - Buffelgrass
  - K-R Bluestem

- **2011**
  - ‘Van Horn’ green sprangletop
  - ‘Haskell” sideoats grama
  - Sand dropseed (common)
  - Dilley Germplasm slender grama
  - Chaparral Germplasm hairy grama
  - Mariah Germplasm hooded windmillgrass
  - Catarina Blend Bristlegrass
  - La Salle Germplasm Arizona cottontop
  - Maverick Germplasm pink pappusgrass
  - Webb Germplasm whiplash pappusgrass
  - Lavaca Germplasm Canada wildrye
Texas Native Seeds

Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute
Native Plant Material Project Areas

Texas Native Seeds

South Texas Natives
Seed Collection Efforts 2011-2012

Texas Native Seeds Collections
- South Texas Region
- West Texas Region
- Central Texas Region
- Not Included

• 2011 Collection Site
• 2012 Collection Site
7 site evaluation of available sources
Figure 18. Mean (SE) number of surviving plants per 10-plant replication by July 2012 at the West Central Texas evaluation site. Line indicates 60% survival.
Figure 19. Mean (SE) height at the West Central Texas evaluation site in summer 2012. Line indicates ideal height of 50 cm for roadside vegetation.
Figure 20. Mean (SE) canopy cover % at the West Central Texas evaluation site in summer 2012. Line indicates desired regional cover of 50%.
Figure 21. Mean seedling density <12 months and >12 months after seeding at the West Central Texas evaluation site. Lines indicate optimal emergence of 1 plant/ft².
Future plans

- Additional South Texas focused seed releases
  - Goal of 30 available native plant seed sources
- 20 seed releases each for Central and West Texas
  - Very few available sources are adapted to West Texas
  - Widespread native species are not available commercially in Central Texas
    - Little bluestem (no tested varieties)
    - Meadow dropseed
    - Early successional grasses (gramas, windmillgrasses, tridens spp.)
  - Lack of certified or tested seeds in most areas of the state
  - Poor supply of many sources
  - High price, performance, cleanliness concerns
Some Upcoming releases- STN
Little bluestem and Yellow Indiangrass
South Texas Origin
Longspike silver bluestem
Awnless bushsunflower
Central Texas priorities
West Texas priorities
In-progress evaluations-potential releases by late 2014: reclamation grasses
FEATURED NEWS

Native Plants - The Foundation for Good Wildlife Habitat

By Colleen Schreiber - SAN ANTONIO - What constitutes good wildlife habitat? In two words - native plants. At least, according to Forrest Smith, director of South Texas Natives, that's where it all begins.

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South Texas Natives Holds Native Seeding Training Session

South Texas Natives in collaboration with the Natural Resource Conservation Service and the Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative hosted a native seeding training session on July 27th 2011 at the Tio and Janell Kleberg...

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South Texas Native Plant Model to Expand to Other Eco-Regions

By Colleen Schreiber - KINGSVILLE - A native plant restoration revolution is underway in South Texas, and now the effort is expanding to the north and to the west.

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