

## **Release of Hooded Windmillgrass and Sand Dropseed Ecotypes for Central Texas**

*John R. Bow, Forrest S. Smith, Anthony D. Falk, Keith A. Pawelek, Brandon Carr, James P. Muir, and Chase Murphy*

The *Central Texas Native Seed Project*, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service James E. “Bud” Smith Plant Material Center in Knox City, and Texas AgriLife Stephenville are releasing Burnet Germplasm hooded windmillgrass and Taylor Germplasm sand dropseed. Each germplasm release is a blend of 4 populations collected from native populations in the Edwards Plateau, Rolling Plains, Cross Timbers, and Blackland Prairies ecoregions of Central Texas.

Sand dropseed and hooded windmillgrass are early seral, warm season, perennial grasses. Both have excellent early establishment features. These seed releases should be useful for prairie restoration, highway rights-of-way revegetation, energy exploration site reclamation, and rangeland seeding mixes. Selections of populations in each release were made based on plant performance data collected over 3 years at evaluation sites in Stephenville and Knox City.

Selected seed populations were increased from the original seed collections and grown in isolated fields at the Texas AgriLife Research Center at Stephenville. They are then blended for release. Each of these releases has been licensed to Amigo Genetics, Bamert Seed Company, and Douglass W. King Seed Company for commercialization. Seed of Burnet Germplasm hooded windmillgrass and Taylor Germplasm sand dropseed should be commercially available for purchase by 2020. These releases will greatly aid in the restoration of native plant communities within Central Texas.

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