

Licensing the Commercial Seed Production of Native Seed Releases

Keith A. Pawelek and Forrest S. Smith

Commercial seed production is perhaps the most important step in making ecotypic native seed available to consumers. Ultimately, the goal is to have an ecosystem-level impact on native habitat restoration. After almost 20 years of attempting to commercialize native seed germplasm releases *Texas Native Seeds* (TNS) has tried many processes to commercialize seed and incentivize commercial growers to meet market demand. After much disappointment in voluntary production of our seed releases, TNS followed the direction of crop developers and started to license production rights to commercial growers in 2008. This change has been successful from a seed production standpoint, and it continues to motivate commercial production of seed releases made by the program. In recent years, licensing agreements have helped to ensure availability of seed to consumers has occurred within 2 years of germplasm release. In addition, supply has generally been maintained through the life of the agreements.

In recent years, we began to request bids for licensed production of each release. This has enabled all commercial producers to have an equal opportunity to produce our releases as well as enabling us the ability to license multiple growers if deemed advantageous. In 2010, we licensed production of 10 upcoming native grass releases to 2 to 3 companies. In addition to spurring commercial production, a tenant of each of these licenses is that all seed must be produced under the Texas Department of Agriculture's Certified Seed Program. This helps ensure high quality and cleanliness of the seed produced.

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Species	Release name	Growers
Little barley Bamert Seed, Amigo Genetics	Cibolo Germplasm	Douglass King Seed Co.,
Silver bluestem Bamert Seed, Amigo Genetics	Santiago Germplasm	Douglass King Seed Co.,
Hooded windmillgrass Bamert Seed, Amigo Genetics	Burnet Germplasm	Douglass King Seed Co.,
Sand Dropseed Bamert Seed, Amigo Genetics	Taylor Germplasm	Douglass King Seed Co.,
Purple threeawn Bamert Seed	Menard Germplasm	Douglass King Seed Co.,
Purple threeawn Bamert Seed	Loma Germplasm	Douglass King Seed Co.,
Whiplash pappusgrass Bamert Seed	Permian Germplasm	Douglass King Seed Co.,
Slim tridens Bamert Seed	Bexar Germplasm	Douglass King Seed Co.,
Rough Tridens Bamert Seed	Brystal Germplasm	Douglass King Seed Co.,
Sideoats grama Bamert Seed	Brewster Germplasm	Douglass King Seed Co.,