

## **Update on the *South Texas Natives Project***

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*South Texas Natives* (STN) has been a leader in native seed source development and restoration methodology research for the past 19 years. STN continues working on seed releases, addressing new restoration challenges, and refining our knowledge of restoration ecology in South Texas.

In the past year, STN focused on increasing inventory of seed stocks of our past releases. This was needed to provide seed for commercial growers to maintain and expand production capacity. Many early seed releases are nearing the end of their initial 7-year production cycle. As a result, we have reestablished seed increase fields of 12 releases to produce needed foundation seed. Limits on stand life of releases in commercial seed production are adhered to so as to prevent genetic shifts of selected plant material in response to growing location. STN tracks seed generations closely and maintains high quality seed of each selection using plants grown from the original wild seed collection.

Another important function of STN is providing seed mix and restoration guidance. Over the last year, we have provided over 25 seed mix recommendations to landowners and made seed mix recommendations for more than 500 miles of pipeline built in South Texas. Because of the generosity of our many sustaining supporters, STN plans to continue facilitating commercial supplies of locally adapted native seed, conduct needed restoration research, and assist constituents with restoration recommendations for years to come.

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