

## **Release of Starr Germplasm longspike silver bluestem for use South Texas**

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Starr Germplasm longspike silver bluestem was cooperatively released in 2019 as a Texas

Selected Native Plant Germplasm by *South Texas Natives* (STN) and the USDA NRCS E.

“Kika” de la Garza Plant Materials Center (PMC). Longspike silver bluestem is a warm season, perennial bunchgrass that is shade tolerant.

Starr Germplasm longspike silver bluestem is recommended for upland wildlife plantings, highway rights-of-way revegetation, energy-related reclamation, and for inclusion in range seeding mixes. Longspike silver bluestem is a dominant species of many grasslands and has shown some competitive adaptability to diversify exotic grass stands in South Texas.

- Starr germplasm is comprised of five regional collections from South Texas, which originated from Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kleberg, Atascosa, and Starr counties.
- Based on collection site locations and evaluations done to date, Starr Germplasm longspike silver bluestem will perform best in the Gulf Coast Prairies and Marshes, Rio Grande Plains, Coastal Sand Plains, Post Oak Savannah, and Blackland Prairies ecoregions of Texas.
- Longspike silver bluestem has been noted to be fair to good livestock forage and provide nesting structure for upland birds.

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