

Sandbrock Ranch Native Grassland Restoration and Demonstration Project

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In its second year of a restoration project with the Sandbrock Ranch, the *Central Texas Native Seed Project* (CTNSP) has seeded 200 acres in the Blackland Prairie of northcentral Texas back into native grassland. The objectives of the restoration project also include the establishment of demonstration plots of native plants used in the restoration. CTNSP staff provided written support to manage seed mixtures, collected data on plants, and monitored the growth of native grassland seed mixes. These results will be used to make restoration recommendations for the northcentral Texas region.

Along with large-scale restoration plantings, CTNSP staff established seed source evaluation plots of sideoats grama and seep muhly at the Sandbrock Ranch. Selections of top performing plants were made based on data collected on plant performance from this site compared to other sites with the same plants in Knox City and in Stephenville. These selected plant populations will be increased and released for commercial seed production for use in restoration efforts.

With the completion of these restoration projects, CTNSP will be leading educational outreach efforts to create greater awareness of the importance of native grasslands in the Blackland Prairie. Restoration findings will also be distributed to landowners, agencies, and the public in northcentral Texas to aid in restoration efforts.

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