

Developing a Downtown Midland Native Plant Demonstration Garden

Samuel R. Lutfy, Jesse Wood, Colin S. Shackelford, and Forrest S. Smith

The Permian Basin is the largest oil and gas producing region in the United States. As such, it has become home to some of the industry's largest companies. Concho Resources, Inc. has partnered with the *Permian Basin-Panhandle Native Seed Project* to establish and maintain a native plant and restoration demonstration garden to showcase commercially available species for restoration projects in the region.

The garden was established in spring 2018, and it contains six species of native wildflowers and 21 native grasses that are available or in development. Two species of native wildflowers were added to the garden in spring 2020. Each species is displayed in 10-foot squares with five-foot walking rows in-between. The garden gives people an idea of the growth habits of the plants and the aesthetic benefits of restoration.

Signs were posted in summer 2019 that explain the benefits of habitat restoration, names of each species, and information about the *Texas Native Seeds Program*. In addition, we have met with industry professionals and public organizations and received positive feedback about the educational benefits this demonstration garden has provided. The garden will continue to be expanded as the program develops new plant materials for the region.

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