

## **Commercial Seed Production of *Texas Native Seeds Program* Releases**

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Commercial producers were able to make great progress with their production of ecotypic plant releases developed by the *Texas Natives Seeds Program* (TNSP) this past year. Ten new germplasm releases will enter the commercial market in fall 2020 thanks to the hard work of our seed industry partners over the past 2 years. With many big projects underway in Texas, especially oil and gas right-of-way seeding, highway right-of-way seeding, and private restoration, there was a shortage of supply of many native plant seeds during 2019–2020. To combat this supply shortage, commercial growers have increased production acreage of many species in 2020.

Over 20,000 pounds of seed from releases developed by TNSP was produced during the 2019 growing season. This marks a slight decline in production, which reflects the challenges of meeting the demands of the growing native seed market. This reduction in production was due primarily to weather and growers needing to cycle out older production in the same growing season. If current conditions hold, there should be well over 50,000 pounds of seed produced in 2020. Several harvests have already been made and the seeds are being cleaned.

In many areas of Texas, diverse mixes of locally adapted native plant seed mixes are now available for use. Because of the added seed production in 2020 many areas in Texas will have seed that can be used for restoration projects. Since demand for many of these native plant species is still outweighing the supply, it is highly recommended that one should consider preordering for upcoming seeding projects to ensure seed will be available.

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