

## **Update on the *West Texas Native Seed Project***

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Significant progress toward the development of locally-adapted native plant seed supplies for West Texas was made in 2019 and 2020. Thirty-eight accessions of hairy grama, 11 accessions of narrowleaf globemallow, and 10 accessions of tobosa grass were planted for evaluation at the Sierra la Rana Plant Evaluation and Research Facility in Alpine and the Railway Ranch Plant Evaluation and Research Facility near Odessa. Data collection will continue through 2020 on these species before selected accessions are planted in seed increase fields for eventual commercial release. Twenty-three native plant species have now been evaluated, or are presently undergoing evaluation, for West Texas.

Twelve species for grassland restoration in West Texas are now in seed increase fields for commercial release. These include eight grasses (black grama, blue grama, Hall's panicum, hooded windmill grass, sand dropseed, sideoats grama, silver bluestem, and whiplash pappusgrass) and four forb or shrub species (cowpen daisy, Gregg's mistflower, skeletonleaf goldeneye, and Tahoka daisy).

Three seed releases have been completed and are currently in commercial production: Brewster Germplasm sideoats grama, Permian Germplasm whiplash pappusgrass, and Santiago Germplasm silver bluestem. Plans are in place for the additional releases of sand dropseed and cowpen daisy in 2020. Seed collections for West Texas are also ongoing to support future seed selections for the region. Presently, over 1,400 native seed collections have been made.

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