

Collection and Development of Native Seed Sources with Texas NRCS

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Locally-adapted native seed supplies are a fundamental resource needed for successful restoration and revegetation. In much of Texas, commercial quantities of appropriate native plant seeds are lacking. To address these seed shortages and develop needed germplasm seed releases of desired species, staff of the *Texas Native Seeds Program* (TNSP) and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Plant Materials Centers (PMC) in Kingsville, Nacogdoches, and Knox City are collaborating through a series of Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit projects supported by Texas NRCS.

In the past year, staff of TNSP and the PMC added 400 new native plant collections from across Texas to the PMC inventory for future research. In support of evaluation and seed increase research, 42,500 plants of various native species were grown in greenhouses of the PMC and TNSP. Evaluation and selection studies for 11 native plant species were started in the last year. These studies include 354 unique native plant populations comprised of common grasses and several desired pollinator plants.

In 2020, additional evaluations were started. These included Arizona cottontop and Canada wildrye for northwest and West Texas, purpletop tridens and rattlesnake master for the Coastal Prairies and East Texas, and Lindheimer tephrosia for South Texas. Finally, seed increase efforts were undertaken for 35 native species, resulting in the production of over 370 pounds of seed of previously released or soon to be released native plants. This seed will be provided to qualified commercial seed growers to use for commercial production to improve seed supply for consumers across Texas.

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