

## **TxDOT and Texas Native Seeds Program Collaboration**

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The *Texas Native Seeds Program* (TNSP) and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) have enjoyed a 20-year-long collaboration. We have worked together to commercialize native plant seed sources resulting in revision of TxDOT seeding specifications for over two-thirds of the state. TNSP staff work closely with TxDOT's Vegetation Management Team to address agency needs. TxDOT provides input on plant selections for upcoming seed releases. As one of the Texas' largest seed buyers, TxDOT's specification of TNSP seed releases is critical for our success.

In the last year, we placed our focus on developing better seed supplies of pollinator plants, advising TxDOT on several specialty seed mixes, bringing an annual cool-season native cover crop to market, and on making selections of native grasses for future use in East Texas and the Coastal Prairies. The TNSP team is also working with TxDOT personnel to install test plantings to study the performance of recent seed releases to guide TxDOT's future seeding specifications.

The use and the specification of native plants for revegetation of Texas roadsides are important to providing habitat for wildlife, thereby minimizing the use of exotic grasses and positively influencing native plant seed markets in Texas. The collaboration of the TNSP and TxDOT has been an extremely fruitful one, and we look forward to continuing success.

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