Update on the *Texas Native Seeds Program*

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The *Texas Native Seeds Program* (TNSP) has continued to make significant progress toward development of locally-adapted native plant seed sources for Texas. We also continue advancing knowledge about restoration methods. In 2011, TNSP expanded from the original *South Texas Natives Project* to Central and West Texas. Today, TNSP operates at the statewide scale with additional regional projects in the Permian Basin-Panhandle, East Texas, and the Coastal Prairies. In 2019, in recognition of the success and growth of the program, TNSP received the Texas Environmental Excellence Award for Agriculture from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and Governor Greg Abbott. We also received The Group Achievement Award from The Wildlife Society in 2019.

Throughout the state, TNSP staff continue working to collect seed of native plant populations, evaluate regionally important native plant species, and make commercial seed releases to increase supply of locally-adapted native plant seeds. To date, over 45 native plant seed sources have been commercialized through the various projects operating as part of TNSP.

We are actively engaged in conducting restoration research in all areas of Texas. Currently, several thousand acres of restoration research plantings are being monitored. In addition, our staff have had the ability to provide native plant seed mix recommendations to a number of large-scale restoration efforts in 2019 and 2020. These included two of the largest pipelines being built in Texas, each impacting thousands of acres. The TNSP will continue working to improve the ability of private landowners, industry, and agencies to restore and conserve the native plants of Texas.

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