

## **Seed Increase of Native Seed Releases for South Texas**

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The year 2014 marks a decade-long partnership of seed increase efforts between Rio Farms in Monte Alto, TX and *South Texas Natives*. Seed production in 2013 was down considerably from past years due to the continuing drought and limited irrigation water availability. However, with a wet winter and early spring in 2014, much progress in producing needed quantities of foundation seed of STN Program releases is being achieved. This spring, seed increase fields of red lovegrass and sand dropseed were increased in size, and many other releases including Maverick Germplasm pink pappusgrass and South Texas germplasm sideoats grama are being maintained at past acreage. At present, with Rio Farms help, we are actively managing 15 acres of native seed production fields in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

In Kingsville, at the Tio and Janell Kleberg Wildlife Research Park, the *South Texas Natives* Farm was able to successfully increase several new seed increases to allow commercial production of upcoming releases. Seed increase fields of Goliad Germplasm orange zexmenia, as well as slim and rough tridens were enlarged so that commercial growers can begin production of these species within the next year. First increases of selections of plains lovegrass, white tridens, and purple threeawn selections were also planted.

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