

## **Texas Native Seeds – West Texas Seed Collections**

*Colin Shackelford, Jameson S. Crumpler, Louis Harveson, Keith A. Pawelek, Anthony D. Falk, and Forrest S. Smith*

Plant material collections have continued across the 37 county west Texas program region of *Texas Native Seeds*. From 2011-2014 project personnel accessed over 50 different properties resulting in 650 new native seed collections for use in our seed source development research. These collections are the product of extensive collaboration with private landowners and natural resource agencies who have granted us access to their properties for our research.

Regional collections are focused on a list of 37 grasses and 40 forbs representing annual and perennial plants from multiple ecological communities and stages of plant succession. Collection lists are developed by local technical committees of resource professionals, academic partners, and interested landowners. Collection data is continually compiled and mapped for use in prioritizing future seed collection efforts. Collection efforts continue until suitable numbers of collections (~30) of each species of interest are obtained. Our goal is to obtain at least two collections of each species from each county it occurs throughout the Trans Pecos. These collections are the basis of the rigorous plant evaluation research that takes place for each plant material release.

A number of new landowner partnerships, especially new landowner contacts in the booming Permian Basin oil and gas development region, and early seasonal precipitation across much of West Texas bodes well for a productive 2014-2015 collection season. These seed collection efforts will result in the eventual release, and subsequent commercial availability of ecotypic native seed sources for use in restoration efforts in the Trans-Pecos Ecoregion of Texas.

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