

Update on the *Texas Native Seeds Project*

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Texas Native Seeds (TNS) began operations in September 2010 through a founding grant provided by the Texas Department of Transportation. Donations from landowners, foundations, and oil and gas industry also support of the program. TNS's mission is to develop native seed sources for Texas, specifically Central and West Texas at present.

Recent emphasis for TNS has been obtaining necessary seed collections of native species of interest from wild populations to allow population selection and seed increase of desired species. Over 1,000 native seed collections have been obtained to date through TNS, primarily from private lands because of extensive collaboration by private landowners.

Another area of emphasis has been developing needed infrastructure for evaluation and seed source development work in each region. In Central Texas, through valuable partnerships with the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Station-Stephenville, Tarleton State University, and the USDA NRCS James E. "Bud" Smith Plant Materials Center, evaluation locations have been developed and are being used for a number of projects respectively at Stephenville and Knox City.

In West Texas, infrastructure development for TNS' research has been a ground up process. Over the past 2 years, in collaboration with the Borderlands Research Institute we have developed 2 field research facilities, including land work, fencing, and irrigation installation at each location: 1) near Alpine on Sierra la Rana Ranch, and 2) near Odessa on the Railway Ranch. As a result progress made to date, TNS will release its first native seed selections for commercial production in 2015, followed by additional releases annually for years to come.

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