

## **Seed Increase of *South Texas Natives*' Plant Releases**

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In order to produce foundation seed for commercial production, seed increase is a priority for *South Texas Natives* (STN). STN has seed increase fields at Bladerunner Farms, Rio Farms, Texas Agrilife Research-Beeville, and the STN farm. Species in production include Arizona cottontop, big bluestem, little bluestem, pink pappusgrass, sideoats grama, whiplash pappusgrass, and yellow Indiangrass at Rio Farms; slender grama, hairy grama, and Texas grama at Bladerunner Farms; Hookers plantain, redseed plantain, bottlebrush plantain, and clammyweed at the STN Farm.

Seed increase fields are established by transplants, grown from the original seed collections to ensure genetic purity of each collection. Collections of each species in the released blend are grown at least 900 ft. apart to prevent cross-pollination. A row cropping production system is used to facilitate weed free fields through cultivation and herbicide applications.

STN seed production serves as foundation seed for commercial producers. Currently there are 3 species in commercial production: Catarina Bristlegrass, La Salle Arizona cottontop, and Dilley slender grama. This year to date, 485 lbs. of pure live seed (PLS) of Catrina bristlegrass and 20 lbs. PLS of Arizona cottontop has been sold commercially. Additionally 380 bulk lbs of Dilley slender grama and 350 bulk lbs. of La Salle Arizona cottontop have already been harvested this spring. Additional seed harvests are anticipated in 2008-2009, as well as establishment of commercial production of several other species.

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