

West Texas Native Seed Project Native Seed Source Development

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Significant progress is being made toward development of locally adapted native seed sources for the Trans-Pecos region of Texas. In 2019, one new plant material release for West Texas was planted in seed increase plots in Alpine. This future release of hooded windmillgrass was established in May. In addition, 12 species desired for grassland restoration in West Texas are in various phases of seed increase. Three of those species (whiplash pappusgrass, silver bluestem, and sideoats grama) are now licensed to 3 growers for commercial production. Additional species being increased include black grama, blue grama, Hall's panicum, sand dropseed, cowpen daisy, Gregg's mistflower, skeletonleaf goldeneye, and Tahoka daisy.

New evaluation plantings of 38 accessions of hairy grama and 11 accessions of narrowleaf globemallow, and advanced evaluations of 10 accessions of tobosa grass were installed at both the Sierra la Rana Research Facility in Alpine and the Railway Ranch Facility near Odessa in June 2019. Data collection for these species will continue through 2020 before selected accessions are planted in seed increase for commercial release. In total, 23 species evaluations have now been completed or are underway for West Texas.

Seed collections from West Texas are also ongoing to support future plant evaluations for the region. To date, nearly 1,300 collections were made across West Texas. Collections for Arizona cottontop, Canada wildrye, rayless Gallardia, huisache daisy, and prairie coneflower are nearing completion. Evaluations are planned for these species beginning in 2020.

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