



Natural Resources Conservation Service

2021 Progress Report of Activities E. "Kika" de la Garza Plant Materials Center Kingsville, Texas

The following are highlights of PMC activities for 2021. Please contact the PMC for more detailed information.

Loma Germplasm Purple Threawn Conservation Seed Release



Loma Germplasm purple threawn
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Texas Native Seeds (TNS), the E. "Kika" de la Garza Plant Materials Center (PMC), Texas AgriLife Research Center Stephenville, and Sul Ross State University Borderlands Research Institute have cooperatively released Loma Germplasm purple threawn (*Aristida purpurea* Nutt.).

This release is a selected plant material class of certified seed. Purple threawn is a warm season, perennial grass with dense basal leaves. The seed is easily recognizable by its 3 long awns. Loma Germplasm is a single accession from native plants growing in the Coastal Sand Plain and was selected from an evaluation

involving 36 different native collections of purple threawn collected from west, central, and south Texas.

Loma Germplasm performs best in the Coastal Sand Plain, Gulf Coast Prairies and Marshes (MLRA 150A & B), and Rio Grande Plain (MLRA 083A-D) ecoregions. Loma Germplasm was specifically selected for use in the Coastal Sand Plain and in the Coastal Sand Plain this release responds more like a late successional species than other threawn releases. It is taller and more robust than other purple threawn releases. Loma Germplasm purple threawn is recommended for critical site revegetation, roadside plantings, erosion control, wildlife plantings, and for inclusion in range seeding mixes on fine sandy soils. It provides quick cover in dry gravelly to sandy sites

More information about this and other NRCS plant releases is available on the PMC website:

[NRCS Conservation Plant Releases](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/plantmaterials/pmc/central/stpmc/)

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Staff Changes

There have been a few staff changes at the PMC over the last year. Long-time PMC manager, John Lloyd-Reilley, retired from the Plant Materials Center a year ago on December 31, 2020. For his many years of service with the Plant Materials Program, he received the Meritorious Service Award in January 2021. However, he continues to work part-time via contract finishing a couple of projects and writing the reports that go along with them. John says the best part of retirement is that he doesn't have to complete all the administrative duties of a manager any longer. John also wanted to thank all the folks that made being the manager at Kingsville a real pleasure. If you want to get in touch with John, you can contact him at thejmale@gmail.com and you may catch him on occasion wandering the PMC fields.



John Reilley surveying a completed sand dune planting

In May 2021, Shelly Maher was selected to fill the manager's position. Shelly started as a university student worker for the PMC back in 2002 during graduate school and has been the study lead since 2004. Shelly jokes that after 19 years she finally moved 10 feet.

Josiah Mulvihill, the farm foreman that joined the PMC in 2019, moved on in November 2021 to pursue ecological tourism farming and other personal interests. Josiah provided excellent service to the PMC in his short time with us. The advertisement for this position should come out soon, so feel free to spread the word.

And finally, Randall Miller was selected to fill the study lead position, reporting January 2022. Randy grew up on a farm and ranch in Southwest Oklahoma. He majored in plant and soil science with a minor in entomology. He then completed coursework in range science before working as a soil scientist for the NRCS for almost 3 years. For the past 3 years he has been a rangeland management specialist for Fort Carson in Colorado as the land rehabilitation and maintenance coordinator.

Seed Collections Needed

The PMC is seeking seed collections in 2022 of the following: narrowleaf globemallow (*Sphaeraicea angustifolia*), Virginia wildrye (*Elymus virginicus*), and partridge pea (*Chaemaecrista fasciculata*). Species description sheets as well as seed collecting protocols are available on the [Texas Plant Materials Program website](#) or contact the PMC for more information.



Virginia wildrye

About the PMC

The E. "Kika" de la Garza Plant Materials Center (PMC) is a 91-acre facility established to provide cost-effective vegetative solutions for soil and water conservation problems. This means identifying plants and developing techniques for successful conservation use. It also means assisting in the commercial development of these plants and promoting their use in natural resource conservation and other environmental programs.

The PMC was established in 1981. It is one of 25 centers located throughout the United States. The PMC is operated by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), in cooperation with Texas A&M University-Kingsville, the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute (CKWRI), South Texas Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts, and the Gulf Coast Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts. The E. "Kika" de la Garza PMC serves approximately 27 million acres of the southern portion of Texas.

Program Emphasis

The mission of the E. "Kika" de la Garza PMC is to develop and transfer plant science technology to solve natural resource problems in the South Texas area. Plant testing and plant selection as well as the development of new plant science technologies are the primary products of our program. The PMC conducts plantings and studies at the Center and off-Center with cooperating partners. The PMC works with NRCS Field Offices, Conservation Districts, federal and state agencies, and private landowners.

Our current program emphasis at the PMC is in the following areas:

- Rangeland Habitat Restoration and Enhancement
- Pollinator Habitat
- Coastal Shoreline Stabilization
- Cover Crops and Soil Health

Presentations & Trainings for FY 2021

Reilley, J., Spring Forage Cover Crops. Presented to zone staff at the STPMC, Kingsville, TX.

Maher, S., STPMC Greenhouse Details and Seed Release Process. Presented to the University of Houston Coastal Center at the STPMC, Kingsville, TX.

Publications for FY 2021

Maher, S., J. Reilley, F. Smith, and K. Pawelek. Native Pollinator Plants of South Texas (revision).

Reilley, J., and S. Maher. Year 2019 Progress Report of Activities.

Current Availability of South Texas Ecotype Releases

Common Name	Scientific Name	Available From	Available
Lavaca Germplasm Canada Wildrye	<i>Elymus canadensis</i>	Turner, Douglass King, Bamert and Pogue	Now
Falfurrias Germplasm Big Sacaton	<i>Sporobolus wrightii</i>	Douglass King, Bamert and Pogue	Now
Kinney Germplasm False Rhodes Grass	<i>Trichloris crinita</i>	Douglass King, Bamert and Pogue	Now
Catarina Blend Bristlegrass	<i>Setaria leucopila</i> & <i>Setaria vulpiseta</i>	Douglass King, Bamert, Pogue, and Turner	Now
Mariah Germplasm Hooded Windmillgrass	<i>Chloris cucullata</i>	Douglass King, Bamert, Pogue Agri Partners	Now
Welder Germplasm Shortspike Windmillgrass	<i>Chloris subdolichostachya</i>	Douglass King, Pogue, and Bamert	Now
Dilley Germplasm Slender Grama	<i>Bouteloua repens</i>	Douglass King, Pogue, and Bamert	Now
Chaparral Germplasm Hairy Grama	<i>Bouteloua hirsuta</i>	Douglass King, Pogue, and Bamert	Now
Atascosa Germplasm Texas Grama	<i>Bouteloua rigidiseta</i>	Douglass King, Pogue, and Bamert	Now
La Salle Germplasm Arizona Cottontop	<i>Digitaria californica</i>	Douglass King, Bamert, Pogue, and Turner	Now
Zapata Germplasm Rio Grande Clammyweed	<i>Polanisia dodecandra</i> ssp. <i>riograndensis</i>	Douglass King, Pogue, and Bamert	Now
Maverick Germplasm Pink Pappusgrass	<i>Pappophorum bicolor</i>	Douglass King, Pogue, and Bamert	Now
Webb Germplasm Whiplash Pappusgrass	<i>Pappophorum vaginatum</i>	Douglass King, Pogue, and Bamert	Now
Hidalgo Germplasm Multiflower False Rhodes Grass	<i>Trichloris pluriflora</i>	Douglass King, Pogue, and Bamert	Now
Oso Germplasm Hall's Panicum	<i>Panicum hallii</i> var. <i>filipes</i>	Douglass King, Pogue, and Bamert	Now
South Texas Germplasm Sideoats Grama	<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i> var. <i>caespitosa</i>	Douglass King, Pogue, and Bamert	Now
Rio Grande Germplasm Prairie Acacia	<i>Acacia angustissima</i> var. <i>hirta</i>	Douglass King	Fall 2022
Venado Germplasm Awnless Bushsunflower	<i>Simsia calva</i>	Douglass King, Pogue, and Bamert	Now
Balli Germplasm Prostrate Bundleflower	<i>Desmanthus virgatus</i> var. <i>depressus</i>	Douglass King, Pogue, and Bamert	Fall 2022
Goliad Germplasm Orange Zexmenia	<i>Wedelia texana</i>	Douglass King, Pogue, and Bamert	Now
Duval Germplasm Red Lovegrass	<i>Eragrostis secundiflora</i> ssp. <i>oxylepis</i>	Douglass King, Pogue, and Bamert	Now
Ramadero Germplasm Spike Lovegrass	<i>Eragrostis spicata</i>	Douglass King, Pogue, and Bamert	Now
Nueces Germplasm Sand Dropseed	<i>Sporobolus cryptandrus</i>	Douglass King, Pogue, and Bamert	Now
Carrizo Blend Little Bluestem	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i> var. <i>scoparium</i>	Douglass King, Pogue, and Bamert	Now, limited
Fuego Germplasm Indian Blanket	<i>Gaillardia pulchella</i>	Douglass King	Now

Seed companies abbreviated above are: Douglass King Seed Company, Pogue Agri Partners, Bamert Seed Company, and Turner Seed Company

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