

## **Replacing Bermudagrass with Windmillgrasses Along Texas Right-Of-Ways**

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The USDA-NRCS, Kika de la Garza Plant Materials Center, has conducted extensive research on 2 grasses that are native to Texas: hooded windmillgrass (WMG) and shortspike WMG. Both grasses possess characteristics needed to compete with introduced species. These native grasses can reach full height within 6 months, germinate quickly, and succeed in south Texas temperatures with minimal resource input. Bermudagrass, an introduced grass species with aggressive growth traits, is currently listed in the Texas Department of Transportation's (TxDOT) standard seed mixture for revegetating Texas roadside right-of-ways.

The objective of this study is to compare establishment of 4 accessions (hooded WMG: 9085301 and 9085313, and shortspike WMG: 9085260 and 9085283) with the establishment of bermudagrass during a 2 year study. The experiment is being conducted along roadsides in Andrews, Kleberg, and Baylor counties. The study sites consist of 5 plots, each seeded with a single species, which were replicated 4 times on clay and sandy soils. Following seedling emergence, percent canopy cover will be estimated using the point intercept method at 30, 60, and 90 days. Results gathered from evaluations in 2006 will be compared against data obtained during summer 2007.

This study will provide TxDOT with data to modify specifications for revegetating Texas roadside right-of-ways by replacing introduced species, such as bermudagrass with native grasses. Windmillgrasses adapted to climate conditions and regular maintenance of TxDOT may prove more conducive to Texas roadside right-of-ways than exotics.

*Cooperative funding provided by the Texas Department of Transportation and Kika de la Garza Plant Materials Center, USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service.*