



RTI Semi-Annual Progress Report

Fiscal Year 2007

Date of This Report: 3 July 2007 Project Number: 5226 RMC: _____

Period Covered by This Report: March 1, 2007 – August 31, 2007

Project Title: Evaluation of Texas Native Grasses for TxDOT Right of Ways

	Name	Agency	Phone	Fax	Email
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Researcher					

1. Requested Changes for Possible Project Modification

Project Termination: *Indicate whether additional time is needed and the desired new termination date.*
No additional time needed. Project is scheduled as a 3 year project.

Project Personnel: *Indicate any proposed changes of research personnel assigned to the project. Provide telephone numbers, fax numbers and email addresses.*

Within Personnel Section, we would like the flexibility to hire or use existing University employees to supplement our use of student workers and the PI.

Funding Needs: *Indicate any problems or need for additional funding. Also report anticipated excess funds, if applicable, which could be returned to TxDOT to fund additional research or implementation projects in this fiscal year.* None.

Work Plan: *Briefly indicate any needed changes or additions to the Objectives and Work Plan contained in the current Project Agreement.* In 2006, drought compromised data; sites were re-visited in April 2007 and evaluated to determine vegetation cover. Based on the vegetation assessment conducted in April, it was recommended to replant and re-evaluate the study sites in Kingsville and Seymour, Texas. The study site in Odessa, Texas was not re-seeded due to the amount of vegetative cover present. Final evaluations will occur at all study sites during the fall of 2007.

Deliverables Table: *Indicate if there are any needed changes to the currently approved deliverables table (inclusive of both reports and products).* None

2. Itemized Budgets for Continuing Projects

*If this project is currently scheduled to continue past FY 2006, attach a completed **Itemized Budget – Exhibit A** (not a Continuation Itemized Budget) for each future year of the project. For joint projects, attach a completed **Itemized Budget – Exhibit A**, for each university, for each future year of the project. See enclosure.*

*If you are not requesting a formal modification of the project agreement, the total on each **Itemized Budget – Exhibit A** must match the related total on the Cover Page of the current Project Agreement.*

3. Equipment

List items of equipment or systems purchased. Equipment is defined as items costing \$5,000 or more. A system is defined as two or more separate components purchased to form a functional unit. For each piece of equipment costing \$5,000 or more that was purchased during this time period attach evidence that the equipment had been added to the university inventory system. None

4. Progress to Date, by Task

Following the task number (or letter) designation as depicted in the project agreement:

- *Provide a short description of the task and a concise discussion (2 to 3 sentences) of the current status, including accomplishments and problems encountered, if any. List **all tasks**, even if no work was done during this period on the task.*
- *Describe the work planned for the next reporting period.*

Task 1 - **Establish planting sites**. Planting sites have been secured in coordination with TxDOT personnel in the Corpus Christi, Odessa, and Wichita Falls Districts. This task is complete.

Task 2 – **Secure test material**. Windmillgrass seed has been acquired from the E. “Kika” de la Garza Plant Materials Center and the commercial species for the appropriate TxDOT mixes have been delivered from Texas seed dealers. This task is complete.

Task 3 – **Plot preparation 2006**. Plots have been flagged and sprayed at the Corpus Christi and Wichita Falls District sites. These plots were disked and cultivated prior to planting in April and May 2006. The Odessa District was staked, mowed, and sprayed on May 11, 2006. After assessing any potential effects the resurfacing project may have had on the study site in Odessa, it was determined that no additional plot preparations would be necessary prior to planting. This task is complete.

Task 3 – **Plot preparation 2007**. Plots were re-flagged and sprayed at the Corpus Christi study sites April 4 and 5, 2007. The Wichita Falls District sites were re-flagged and sprayed April 19, 2007. The Odessa District plots were re-staked on April 26, 2007. These plots were mowed prior to planting in April 2007. This task is complete.

Task 4 – **Plot seeding 2006**. Seeding was done April 17-19, 2006 in the Corpus Christi District. Seeding for the Wichita Falls District was completed May 23, 2006. Planting took place on August 29, 2006 for the Odessa District. This task is complete.

Task 4 – **Plot seeding 2007**. Re-seeding was done April 6, 2007 in the Corpus Christi District. Seeding for the Wichita Falls District was completed April 19, 2007. Based on vegetation assessment, re-planting was not necessary in the Odessa District. This task is complete.

Task 5 – **Monitoring 2006**. This task is complete.

- 30 Day evaluations were conducted on the 14-16, 19-20 of June, 2006 for the Corpus Christi District. 60 Day evaluations for the Corpus Christi District were completed July 13-14, 17-19, 2006. 90 Day evaluations were completed August 14-17, 2006. Photographs were taken before planting occurred and during each evaluation.
- 30 Day evaluations for the Wichita Falls District were conducted the 20-23 of July, 2006. 60 Day evaluations were completed August 21-23, 2006, and 90 Day evaluations for Wichita Falls were conducted on September 23-24, 2006. Photographs were taken before planting occurred and during each evaluation.

- 30 Day evaluations took place in the Odessa District on October 13-14, 2006. 60 Day evaluations for Odessa were completed on November 18-19, 2006. 90 Day evaluations were conducted in December on 16-17, 2006. Photographs were taken before planting and during each evaluation.

Task 5 – **Monitoring 2007.** This task is in progress.

- 30 Day evaluations were conducted on June 1-3, 2007, for the Corpus Christi District. 60 Day evaluations for the Corpus Christi District will be completed in July, 2007. 90 Day evaluations will be completed August, 2007. Photographs will be taken during each evaluation.
- 30 Day evaluations for the Wichita Falls District were conducted June 9 and 10, 2007. 60 Day evaluations will be completed in July, 2007. 90 Day evaluations will be completed August, 2007 at the Seymour, TX study sites. Photographs will be taken during each evaluation.
- 30 Day evaluations took place in the Odessa District on October 13-14, 2006. 60 Day evaluations for Odessa were completed on November 18-19, 2006. 90 Day evaluations were conducted in December on 16-17, 2006. Photographs were taken before planting and during each evaluation.

Task 6 – **Final Report.** Has not been done. This will occur once the project has been completed.

5. Progress on Development of “Product” Deliverables

*Provide a brief update on the work done to date on each **product** deliverable in the current deliverables table for this project. Include whether each product is ready for implementation. You may complete the table below by making an entry for each product on the currently approved deliverables table, or attach an annotated copy of the currently approved deliverables table.*

Product #	Product Description	Progress to Date & Implementation Status
P1	Commercial Release of windmillgrass	Release documents have been written and approved. The seeds were harvested from the foundation blocks and are being cleaned. Became commercially available to seed dealers December, 2006.
P2	Estimated Benefits Report.	Will be completed at end of this project.
R1	Annual Research Report	Will be delivered on 12/31/2007.

6. Meetings/Conferences

Provide the date, time, and location of any project meetings or conferences that:

- were conducted during this reporting period, and/or
- are planned for the next reporting period.

None

7. Possible Candidates for Formal Presentations at the Upcoming RMC Meeting

Indicate whether this project should be considered for presentation at the next RMC meeting. Include specific reasons why the project would be a good candidate (e.g., products or other results are ready for implementation, the research is high profile or is especially timely, etc.) Not at this time.

8. Miscellaneous

Any other relevant information not covered above should be entered here by the research supervisor.

None

Texas Department of Transportation maintains the information collected through this form. With few exceptions, you are entitled on request to be informed about the information that we collect about you. Under §§552.021 and 552.023 of the Texas Government Code, you also are entitled to receive and review the information. Under §559.004 of the Government Code, you are also entitled to have us correct information about you that is incorrect. For inquiries call 512/465-7403.