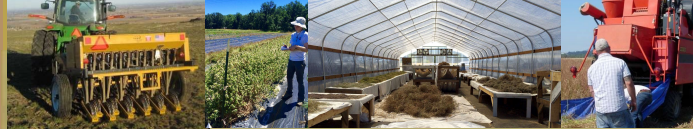




## Native Seed is in Demand

Restoration in the Southwest could be more successful with a reliable supply of ecologically appropriate native seed on the market. By starting with diverse, locally collected, wild seed, we can enhance potential adaptability in restored populations and improve long-term restoration success. Commercial producers currently offer a very limited selection of native species and tend to sell cultivars rather than wild sourced material from our local ecoregions. Demand for native seed is increasing, but few farmers in New Mexico and Arizona are producing this crop. The Southwest Seed Partnership (SWSP) is working to address this market gap and improve the supply of appropriate native seed.



### How does the SWSP support farmers? WE:

- Provide a bridge between buyers and growers of native seed by pooling and communicating demand, and helping buyers find seed for sale.
- Collect wild, native seed, verify/test seed zones, and build appropriate accessions for grow-out.
- Establish production contracts with farmers, eventually making seed available for growing on speculation.
- Conduct research to inform production.
- Provide native seed workshops and training.
- Work to ensure high seed quality by coordinating with NM and AZ seed certification.
- Write grants to help facilitate tribal nurseries and new farmers.

## Growing Native Seed

Native seed crops that intentionally have higher levels of genetic diversity can be more challenging than traditional crops as they can lack uniformity and information about best cultivation and harvesting practices. This sector is ideal for pioneering growers who enjoy research and want to develop new knowledge in an emerging field. The SWSP recognizes the **value-added** quality of locally-appropriate native seed and educates potential buyers about the benefits of this premium product.

Currently we are contracting small scale production fields (1/8 – 1 acre per species). However, the SWSP is developing small to large scale opportunities, including small test plots, multi-acre seed production fields, nursery production, seed cleaning services, and shrub blocks.

Join us for SWSP Stakeholder Meetings and help shape the program.

For more information or to participate in the SWSP, please contact the  
**Institute for Applied Ecology**  
Melanie Gisler, [melanie@appliedeco.org](mailto:melanie@appliedeco.org)



Forbs (wildflowers) and native grasses provide valuable habitat for a diversity of pollinators and beneficial insects.



Example species used in habitat restoration:  
*Achnatherum hymenoides* Indian ricegrass  
*Achillea millefolium* western yarrow  
*Asclepias speciosa* showy milkweed  
*Asclepias subverticillata* horsetail milkweed  
*Bouteloua curtipendula* sideoats grama  
*Bouteloua gracilis* blue grama  
*Heterotheca villosa* hairy false goldenaster  
*Sphaeralcea angustifolia* copper globemallow  
*Sphaeralcea coccinia* scarlet globemallow  
*Sporobolus airoides* alkali sacaton  
*Sporobolus cryptandrus* sand dropseed  
*Thermopsis montana* mountain goldenbanner

The Southwest Seed Partnership is a bridge between land managers who need appropriate native seed for restoration and native seed farmers in the region. We are working to support the emerging native seed industry in the Southwest through providing research, foundation seed, and funding to growers for production.

# Farming *for* Restoration

## Native Seed Production *with the*

Who buys native seed for restoration?

- US Forest Service
- Bureau of Land Management
- NM and AZ Departments of Transportation
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Pueblo and Tribal Resource Managers
- National Parks Service
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Army Corps of Engineers
- NM Energy, Mineral and Natural Resources
- AZ State Land Department
- Restoration contractors and NGO's

## Southwest Seed Partnership



For more information about the  
Southwest Seed Partnership:  
[southwestseedpartnership.org](http://southwestseedpartnership.org)