

TxDOT Directive

Subject: Use of Native Plants in Landscaping Applications

Purpose: To promote cost savings by encouraging the use of native and adapted plants in landscaping applications.

Policy:

TxDOT will use native and adapted plants in roadside re-vegetation and landscaping.

Exceptions to this policy must be approved by the District Engineer.

General Comments:

Where possible, TxDOT should use native and adapted plants in roadside re-vegetation and landscaping. Research has demonstrated that native and adapted plants can be as effective as a non-native mix in establishing cover. Research has proven that this mix will establish an area quicker and provide a long term sustainable right of way sooner than a pure native or non-native mix. Studies also have shown that decreased mowing frequency can be favorable for the establishment and maintenance of native plant populations on roadsides (and detrimental to the establishment and spread of some invasive species). Plus, this mixture fits in well with the surrounding natural landscape. Using native and adapted plants in roadside landscaping can be aesthetically appealing, ecological and cost-effective.

The DE may consider exceptions to the policy based on the following criteria:

- Seasonal establishments,
- Mitigation of existing species,
- Other factors.

02/26/2010
Effective Date

Mark A. Mark
Signature

Evaluation of Texas Native Grasses for TxDOT ROW

Roadside Vegetation Document