



DINÉ NATIVE PLANTS PROGRAM



NAVAJO NATION NATIVE PLANT NEEDS

Our Mission: "To serve as a living library of locally-sourced native plants for restoration, conservation, and research, while providing the Diné People access to culturally important plants for the benefit of the community, culture, wildlife, and land."

In January and February of 2018, Navajo community members and Navajo Nation agencies/affiliated organizations were surveyed to determine the current use and anticipated need for native plants on the Navajo Nation. Surveys were conducted to assess the feasibility of starting a native plant nursery and seed banking program, called the Diné Native Plants Program (DNPP), to collect, store, and grow native plants for use in restoration, conservation, and cultural preservation. The survey results, summarized below, were overwhelmingly in favor of the Diné Native Plants Program and its mission to restore the health and function of Navajo native ecosystems.

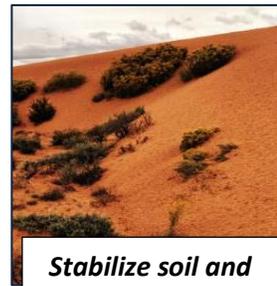
NATIVE PLANTS ARE IMPORTANT BECAUSE THEY:



Keep out invasive plants



Provide habitat for wildlife



Stabilize soil and prevent erosion



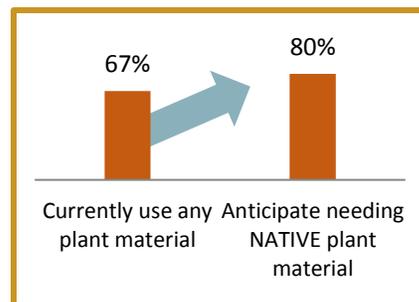
Provide traditional food & medicine

AGENCY/ORGANIZATION RESPONSE

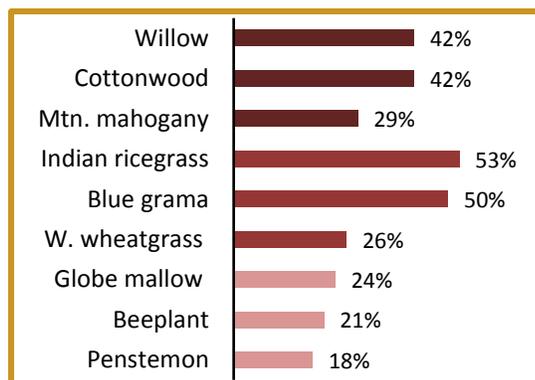
46 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NAVAJO NATION AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS WERE SURVEYED ABOUT THEIR CURRENT AND ANTICIPATED USE OF NATIVE PLANTS.

80% reported anticipating a need for native plants in the near future, indicating an increasing demand. 68% of survey takers expressed concern regarding the source of the native plant materials purchased, indicating the awareness of utilizing locally-adapted plants. Plants produced by the DNPP and/or local farmers will likely have higher survival rates because seeds will be collected near restoration sites.

Representatives also selected specific plant species they would like produced in the next 5-10 years. This list of plants will be used to direct seed collecting efforts conducted by the DNPP. Finally, 74% of representatives said they would be willing to purchase local native plant material from a regional partnership of growers such as the DNPP.



Native Plant material use will likely **increase** in the next 5-10 years



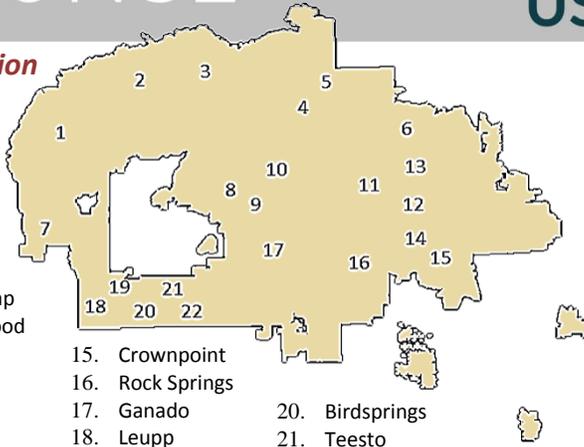
3 common native **woody, grass, & forb** plants species needed by agencies

NAVAJO COMMUNITY RESPONSE

225 COMMUNITY MEMBERS ACROSS THE NAVAJO NATION WERE SURVEYED AND ASKED ABOUT THEIR PERSONAL USE OF NATIVE PLANTS

Navajo Nation

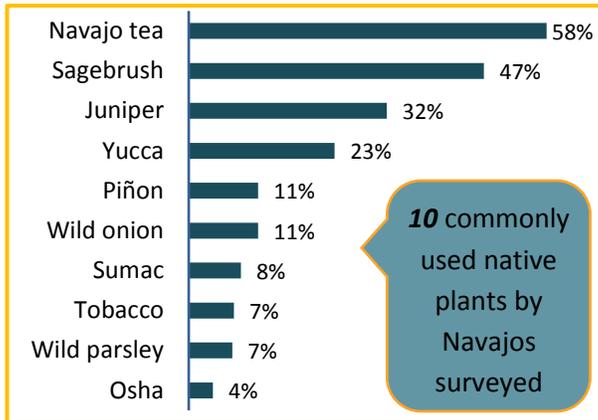
1. Coppermine
2. Navajo Mountain
3. Oljato
4. Sweetwater
5. Teec Nos Pos
6. Nenahnezad
7. Cameron
8. Tah Chee/Blue Gap
9. Tselani/Cottonwood
10. Many Farms
11. Sheep Springs
12. Naschitti
13. Burnham
14. Standing Rock



15. Crownpoint
16. Rock Springs
17. Ganado
18. Leupp
19. Tolani Lake
20. Birdsprings
21. Teesto
22. Dilkon

Community members were surveyed at 22 chapter houses

Amazingly, 95% said they currently use native plants for personal or cultural purposes, proof of an on-going and essential connection between Navajo people and plants. 83% of people surveyed were personally collecting plants from the wild and food was the most common purpose of collecting native plant material. Participants were also asked to specify which native plants they use, which plants were becoming scarce, and which plants DNPP should grow. Over 65 plants were listed, including Navajo tea, sagebrush, juniper, and yucca. Finally, 69% of people said they would be interested in attending workshops related to traditional uses of native plants.



MOST COMMON USES OF NATIVE PLANTS



The survey results clearly demonstrate a need for locally-sourced native plants on the Navajo Nation for both official and personal use. In fall 2018, the DNPP began seed collecting and storing native plants with plans to collaborate with the Navajo Forestry Department to use greenhouse space to grow plants in Fort Defiance, AZ. Species reported in the surveys will be targeted for seed collection and propagation. In addition, the DNPP will collaborate with local, tribal, state, and federal partners to restore native species to degraded land and will also work with communities to host workshops to educate the public about native plants. We believe the DNPP will develop into a lasting operation that will encourage more restoration and awareness of native plants on the Navajo Nation to the benefit of the land and people.



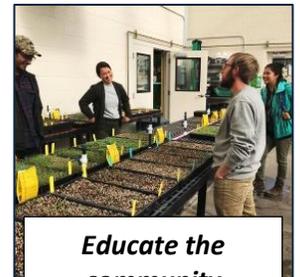
THE DNPP WILL CONTINUE TO:



Collect/store seeds for future projects



Grow plants for ecological restoration



Educate the community