

Building Resiliency with Native Seeds Training Program

RESTORATION SPECIES LIST



Introduction: This list of species can be used broadly in many contexts on the Navajo Nation, on dry saline, sandy or fine (clay) soils. These species are commonly referred to as "restoration workhorse" species because of their ability to establish from seed and grow in harsh conditions often found in restoration projects. There are other species that have been identified as workhorse and as important for restoration; this is by no means an exhaustive list. It is a start. These are the species we will be starting from seed in the Navajo Nation greenhouse, and will later install as both seedlings and as seed at the Tolani Lake Enterprises restoration area and demonstration native plant garden and orchard.

We encourage you to take notes to help you learn these species.

DEFINITIONS

Perennial: long-lived or living more than 2 years. Perennial plants can go dormant during part of the year, and can appear golden (like many of the grasses), disappear underground (like many of the flowering plants), or lose their leaves (like many of the shrubs).

Forb: a flowering plant that doesn't have woody stems.

Shrub: a flowering plant that has woody stems.

Rhizome: a root that will sprout a shoot or send up leaves. Grasses that are good for erosion control often grow by rhizomes, they are able to hold the soil in place with this growth habit.

Photo (Credit: SEINET.org)	Common Name	Botanical Name	Notes
	Flax	<i>Linum lewisii</i>	Perennial. Native forb. Found on slopes and meadows 3500-11500 ft. Likes well-drained soils and can tolerate weekly saline or weekly acidic soils. Good erosion control. Decent pollinator plant.
	Navajo Tea	<i>Thelesperma megapotanicum</i>	Perennial. Native forb. Found in disturbed areas, often in sandy or clay-rich soils 1000-9500 ft. Great pollinator plant with cultural uses. Flowers May - October. Great pollinator plant.
	Palmer's penstemon	<i>Penstemon palmeri</i>	Perennial. Native forb. Lives on roadsides, washes, canyons and woodlands 1000-7000 ft. Great forage for wildlife. Used for erosion control. Great pollinator plant.
	prairie sagewort	<i>Artemesia frigida</i>	Perennial native small shrub. Found in rocky, well drained soils, meadows and hillsides 5500-10000 ft. Flowers July-October. Aromatic, resists browsing by animals. Can be important winter browse.

Photo (Credit: SEINET.org)	Common Name	Botanical Name	Notes
	Rocky Mountain penstemon	<i>Penstemon strictus</i>	Perennial native forb. Likes wooded areas, limestone ridges, and open meadows 2000-4000 ft. Great pollinator plant. Forage for wild animals.
	showy goldeneye	<i>Heliomeris multiflora</i>	Perennial. Native forb. Found on dry slopes, mountain meadows and pine forests from 4500-9000 ft. Excellent pollinator plant.
	tansy aster	<i>Machaeranthera tanacetifolia</i>	Perennial to biennial native forb. Found in dry, open places below 8000 ft. Does well in disturbed areas. Excellent pollinator plant.
	western yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Perennial native forb. Widespread 5500-11500 ft. Decent pollinator plant. Has many medicinal uses.

Photo (Credit: SEINET.org)	Common Name	Botanical Name	Notes
	white prairie clover	<i>Dalea candida</i>	Perennial native forb to small shrub. Found in grasslands and woodlands 3000-8000 ft. Flowers May-Sept. Great pollinator plant. Nitrogen fixer and soil builder.
	alkali sacaton	<i>Sporobolus airoides</i>	Perennial. Native bunchgrass. Found on dsandy plateaus, washes, bottomlands, and in alkaline and saline soils 2500-6500 ft. Good forage plant. Good for windbreaks and erosion control.
	blue grama	<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>	Perennial. Native grass. Good erosion control - grows via rhizomes or by sending shoots up from roots (forms sod). Good forage plant. Found on open rocky slopes, forests and graslands 4000-8000 ft. Can otlerate acidic soils with low nutrient content.

Photo (Credit: SEINET.org)	Common Name	Botanical Name	Notes
	sand dropseed	<i>Sporobolus cryptandrus</i>	Perennial. Native small bunchgrass. Found on sandy soils of plains, slopes & washes below 7000 ft. Decent forage plant.
	galleta grass	<i>Pleuraphis jamesii</i>	Perennial. Native bunch grass. Found in canyons, deserts, dry plains, sandy plateaus, juniper woodlands 3500-7000 ft. Adapted to a wide variety of soils, including clay soils where other grasses are rare. Good forage.
	indian ricegrass	<i>Oryzopsis (Achnatherum) hymenoides</i>	Perennial. Native bunchgrass. Found on dry well-drained (sandy) soils 3500-6500 ft.

Photo (Credit: SEINET.org)	Common Name	Botanical Name	Notes
	squirreltail	<i>Elymus elymoides</i>	Perennial. Native bunchgrass. Found in wide-ranging habitats 2000-11500 ft. Widespread across the intermountain west. Good forage before seeds harden; awns (long stiff hair on seed) can irritate animal mouths.
	western wheatgrass	<i>Pascopyrum smithii</i>	Perennial. Native grass. Greens up in spring. Adapted to fine and very fine soils in higher precip. areas 1000-9000 ft. Erosion control: grows by rhizomes or roots that send up shoots - can "knit" together the soil. Great forage plant.
	greasewood	<i>Sarcobatus vermiculatus</i>	Perennial. Native. Shrub. 3-6 ft in diameter. Likes alkaline or saline soils in plains, alkali flats, solonchaks, roadsides, dry washes between 2000-8000 ft. Flowers spring-summer.

Photo (Credit: SEINET.org)	Common Name	Botanical Name	Notes
	Salt Brush (Dwozhii)	<i>Atriplex canescens</i>	Perennial. Native. Shrub. 4-6 feet in diameter. Found on sandy or gravelly soils from 300-6500 ft. Flowers spring and summer.
	winterfat	<i>Krascheninnikovia lanata</i>	Perennial. Native. Sub-shrub (small shrub). Found on slopes and plains 2000-7000 ft. Tolerates alkaline soils. Flowers May-October.
	big sacaton	<i>Sporobolus wrightii</i>	Perennial. Native bunchgrass. Likes alkaline and saline soils. Really big growth habit - great for wind breaks and bank stabilization. Best in in wet areas: drainages, wetlands, or can grow if irrigated. Provides habitat for mammals. Likes river banks, sandy washes, plains, valley flats 2000-6500 ft.

SOURCES: SEINET, AZ and NM Chapter at WWW.SWBIODIVERSITY.ORG
www.plants.usda.gov

