HAIRY WHITE OLDFIELD ASTER
Symphyotrichum pilosum
ASTER FAMILY – Asteraceae
Eastern North America

WINKLER'S BLANKE
Gaillardia aristata
ASTER FAMILY – A
Texas

SMOOTH BEARDTONGUE
Penstemon calycosus
Eastern North Ame

COMMON ROSE MALLOW
Hibiscus moscheutos
MALLOW FAMILY – Malvaceae
USA

VIRGINIA AGAVE
Manfreda virginica
AGAVE FAMILY – Agavaceae
East and Cent USA to N Mexico

PURPLE PITCHER PLANT
PITCHER PLANT FAMILY – Sarraceniaceae
Southeastern USA

Seed Banking for Today and Tomorrow

Seeds of Success (SOS) is a program coordinated through the Bureau of Land Management and Plant Conservation Alliance that supports and coordinates seed collection from native plant populations in the United States.

Some of the seed is grown with the goal of increasing the number of specimens and quantity available for use in stabilizing, rehabilitating and restoring lands in the United States. Seeds are provided to researchers and growers in the US whose work supports environmental sustainability. Through a partnership with Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew's Millennium Seed Bank Project, SOS provides data on seed quality and germination, information that is crucial to the development of new native plant materials for commercial trade.

In our changing world, biodiversity is threatened by habitat destruction, invasive plants, and environmental disasters. Seeds are easily stored, making them a wonderful tool for conservation. A portion of the seed collected by SOS is put into long term cold storage as an insurance policy against the extinction of our wild flora and to provide options for their future use. Depending on the plant species, the seeds can last hundreds to thousands of years. Some tropical seeds cannot tolerate cold storage and are being studied to find alternate methods.

The program began in 2003 with collections by the Bureau of Land Management and now includes 8 additional institutions and 19 partners utilizing 400 volunteers across the United States.

www.nps.gov/plants/sos