

## **Native seeds for ecological restoration and the new life of SID (Seed Information Database)**

Simone Pedrini

Curtin University, Perth, Western Australia, School of Molecular and Life Sciences (MLS)  
Chair-Elect, International Network for Seed-based Restoration

Ecological Restoration is the practice of re-establishing ecosystems that have been disturbed, damaged, or destroyed. Seeds of Native species of appropriate origin are the backbone of most land-based restoration programs for either plant production or direct seeding.

Numerous public and private initiatives are scaling up native seed supplies to support the growing demand of seeds for restoration. However, the incredibly high inter and intra-specific diversity (e.g. genetic, morphological) makes working with native seeds more complex than with agricultural and horticultural varieties. The International Network for Seed-Based Restoration (INSR) developed the first Standards for Native Seeds in Ecological Restoration, identifying and addressing some of the most common issues in the native seed supply chain. These documents are freely available as open-access publications.

Another very useful tool for seed scientists, native seed suppliers, and restoration practitioners is the Seed Information Database SID. This publically accessible seed trait database was developed by the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew (RBGK) in the early 2000 and, with information on over 50.000 taxa, has been the go-to place for seed information by the global seed and restoration community.

The Society for Ecological Restoration (SER) has agreed with RBGK to host the SID database and has redeveloped the interface to improve navigation and accessibility to the data and the seed viability calculators. The renewed SID, developed by Chid Gilovitz with the help of Fiona Hay and Robert Turner (RBGK), is now available for all to use and will be presented to the public for the first time at this webinar.