

Wild Species Working Group

June 30, 2019

32 ISTA Congress

Hyderabad - India



A cooperative effort

- There are four member organizations supporting the Wild Species Working Group
 - ISTA
 - AOSA
 - SCST
 - KEW Millennium Seed Bank



Make-up of Working Group

- ISTA : Seven Members
 - Laura Bowden
 - Fabio Gorian
 - Stephanie Kramer
 - Alison Powell
 - Ruoqing Wang – Vice-chair
 - Rita Zecchinelli
 - Joel Lechappe



Make-up of Working Group

- AOSA: Two Members
 - Riad Baalbaki
 - Victor Vankus
- SCST: Two Members
 - Heidi Larson
 - Gil Waibel - Chair
- KEW Millennium Seed Bank: Two Members
 - Ted Chapman
 - Rachael Davies



“Wild” species = “Native” species?

- Differs by the intent of the term
- “Wild” species encompasses the character of untouched species world wide
- A “native” species is only native in the area of its origin – Such a species is considered “introduced” anywhere else...
- ***What is a weed? A plant whose virtues have not yet been discovered.*** Ralph Waldo Emerson



Working Group Progress

- Completed the first priority list of over 3,450 species
- Fund raising effort - complete
- Located a programmer who will develop the web site platform
 - Chapters describing methodology on Purity, Germination, Tetrazolium and other topics
 - Recommended protocols for species without rules
 - Pictures of many wild species to help with identification
 - Glossary



User's Expectations of Wild Species Performance

- Dormancy is a good characteristic
- Purity and germination may not be high for some of these species – yet acceptable to buyer
- Recommended planting rates may be 50 to 100 seeds per square foot
 - One or two plants per square foot is considered a successful stand
- Goal is to establish a long-lasting stand creating a desired ecosystem
- Some mixes contain up to 60 components



Current Goals

- Develop the web site
- Write, edit and post methodology chapters
- Begin making recommendations of species on the priority list
- Organize seed labs to conduct comparative germination tests to help make recommendations
- Begin opening the project scope to be world-wide



Questions?





Mucuna urens - Hamburger bean
Photo credited to KEW

