

### **BYU Native Plant Materials Research Facility**

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Brigham Young University has owned an 800-acre farm east of Spanish Fork, Utah since 1957. This has been a traditional crop farm used to support a large university dairy. With the closure of the dairy in July of 2003, BYU will convert the farm to a research facility with the goal to expand the diversity and availability of native rangeland plant species for wildland restoration and disturbance mitigation. This effort will encompass wildland plant selection and collection, cultural practices and equipment development for production, and field model production. Ecological studies of rangeland mixes and interactions will be included for restoration work. The research farm will have segments devoted to native grasses, forbs and shrubs. Our goal will be to provide the native plant industry a greater diversity of native plants materials with research-baked recipes for field production geared to provide seed in greater quantities at lower prices for restoration initiatives. The BYU farm is located on the border between the Colorado Plateau and the Great Basin, and thus will be able to work with suites of species from both regions. The farm will be under the direction of the Dean of the College of Biology and Agriculture. Brigham Young University faculty members, assistant researchers, graduate and undergraduate students will be utilized to run the farming operation. In addition to BYU faculty, researchers from the U.S. Forest Service Shrub Sciences Laboratory and the Great Basin Research Center of the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources will cooperate on projects at the farm.