

Spring 2022

Native Seed Scoop, 2022 Post-Planting Edition

University of Northern Iowa. Tallgrass Prairie Center.

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Tallgrass Prairie
CENTER

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA

www.tallgrassprairiecenter.org

Native Seed Scoop - 2022 Post-Planting Edition



The TPC Plant Materials Program continues to grow out first-generation seed from our reserve seed freezer to replenish aging or depleted supplies of stock seed. Our plots of Zone 2 long-bracted spiderwort, *Tradescantia bracteata*, which were transplanted in May 2021 from seed grown here in 2003, flowered abundantly this June.

Events

The North American Prairie Conference, originally planned for late July, has been cancelled.

July 25-26, 2022. [Conserving Fragmented Prairies Workshop](#). Marquette and Wood River, Nebraska. Pre-registration is required, but there is no registration fee.

July 26, 2022, 12:00-1:30pm EDT. [Native Seed Partnerships: Collaborations to Increase Regional Seed Availability](#). Natural Areas Association. Nonmembers fee: \$29

August 6th, 2022. [Iowa Prairie Network's Annual Board Meeting](#) and prairie hikes, Maquoketa, IA. Space limited, registration required.

August 16-18, 2022. [Grass Identification and Ecology Workshop](#), Hitchcock Nature Center, Pottawattamie County Conservation.

September 7-9, 2022. [35th annual roadside conference, Arrowwood Resort and Conference Center, Okoboji](#).

Check the [TPC online calendar](#) for other upcoming events

In case you missed it

The **2022 Native Seed Stakeholder Meeting** was held March 22 at the University of Northern Iowa. Videos of the talks are available on the [Native Seed Stakeholders page on the TPC website](#).

The International Network on Seed-Based Restoration (INSR, a section of the Society for Ecological Restoration) held the **INSR Native Seed Workshop** online in March 2022. [Videos are now available of workshop presentations on a variety of topics related to the use of native seed in restoration](#). (Filter the results by “INSR Native Seed Workshop” to find the list of talks.)

What's Your Scoop?

Have something to share with other native seed stakeholders? Send your news tips to laura.walter@uni.edu.

You can also join our native seed listserv to post news and questions directly to the group. Email laura.walter@uni.edu to join.

Collaboration on seed production issues

Several native seed growers in the Upper Midwest region have indicated an interest in sharing information about seed production issues and solutions. A few of us discussed this at the Native Seed Stakeholder Meeting in March. The areas of greatest interest are weeds, insects, and plant diseases that affect native seed production.

If you would be interested in participating in these efforts, please email laura.walter@uni.edu.

New species at the TPC

Stakeholders have told us that they desire a greater variety of options for source-ID seed of species that flower either early or late in the growing season.

We made enough remnant collections in fall 2021 to produce new pooled regional ecotypes of three late-flowering species suitable for moist to wet soils: blue vervain, *Verbena hastata*; parasol white-top, *Doellingeria umbellata*; and common boneset, *Eupatorium perfoliatum*. In May, we transplanted seedlings from these collections into three 160-ft irrigated production rows at the TPC. They are growing well, and we hope to make our first harvest this fall.



From left to right: Map of 2021 collections of *Eupatorium perfoliatum* on USFS “Provisional Seed Zone” map, seedling plug of *Verbena hastata*, Plant Materials student assistant Laura Spies (L) and AmeriCorps members Andrew Rust (R) and Bri Hull (C, back) transplanting *Doellingeria umbellata* seedlings.



This spring and early summer, we have focused our seed collection efforts on early flowering forbs and grasses including wild strawberry, *Fragaria virginiana* (left); wood betony, *Pedicularis canadensis* (center); and Leiberg’s rosette grass, *Dichanthelium leibergii* (right). Each of these species comes with new production challenges!

We are grateful for our partners at the DNR Prairie Resource Center, USDA North Central Regional Plant Introduction Station, Polk County Conservation, and Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation for sharing information and collections. We also thank the Iowa DNR, County Conservation Boards, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, The Nature Conservancy of Iowa, and private land owners for permission to collect seed.

Conservation Program News

[USDA Update \(May 26, 2022\)](#) – The USDA will allow CRP participants who are in the final year of their contract to request voluntary termination of their CRP contract following the end of the primary nesting season for fiscal year 2022. The article also lists other options for these acres.

[NRCS Conservation Outcomes Webinar Series](#) - Need another way to keep up with the science that guides NRCS conservation programs? One-hour, live webinars occur on the fourth Thursday of even-numbered months at 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time (ET). The website provides a subscription link for email updates and a list of recorded webinars.

AOSCA Updates Certification Booklet



The Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies (AOSCA) has released an updated booklet on the certification of wildland sourced plant materials (including “yellow tag”) which clarifies the goals, definitions, and process of tracking seed sourced from wildland collections.

[How AOSCA Tracks Wildland Sourced Seed & Other Plant Propagating Materials \(2022\)](#)

Research Scoop

Conrady, et al (2022) Evolution during seed production for ecological restoration? A molecular analysis of 19 species finds only minor genomic changes. *Journal of Applied Ecology*, 59(5): 1383-1393. (We can't share a link to this article but encourage you to look it up online.)

Outreach, Education, and Marketing

Looking for resources to share with people who want to help pollinators? The Iowa DNR's Prairie 101 Series now has three editions with clear, stepwise information on planning, preparing, and planting a backyard prairie. [Links are on the Pollinator page of the DNR website.](#)

Free [Botany Beginners courses are available on the Tallgrass Prairie Center website](#). The summer 2022 course is tailored to the needs of certified crop consultants, conservation professionals, farm managers, farmers, landowners, and others who manage prairie strips and other CRP utilizing native plants. Recordings from 2020 and 2021 are available as self-study courses for anyone with an interest in learning how to learn about the plants around them.

In other news...

[SDSU project to study effects of biodiversity in restoration mixes](#) on soil health and pollinator habitat

[How effective is pollinator habitat restoration in solar installations?](#) Standards and scientific evaluation are needed.

[UK researchers found that farms that planted bird and pollinator habitat](#) on marginal ground (up to 8% of farmed area) were just as productive as they were before.

[Converting pastures in the Eastern U.S. to native grasses](#) can benefit cattle producers, soils, and wildlife.



Research assistant Laura Spies and AmeriCorps member Bri Hull gather seed of *Packera plattensis* at a remnant prairie in Black Hawk County during peak flowering of hairy puccoon, *Lithospermum carolinense*.



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