

1945

On Transplanting Prairie Species

W. A. Anderson
University of Iowa

Copyright ©1945 Iowa Academy of Science, Inc.

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.uni.edu/pias>

Recommended Citation

Anderson, W. A. (1945) "On Transplanting Prairie Species," *Proceedings of the Iowa Academy of Science*, 52(1), 93-94.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.uni.edu/pias/vol52/iss1/11>

This Research is brought to you for free and open access by the Iowa Academy of Science at UNI ScholarWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in Proceedings of the Iowa Academy of Science by an authorized editor of UNI ScholarWorks. For more information, please contact scholarworks@uni.edu.

ON TRANSPLANTING PRAIRIE SPECIES

W. A. ANDERSON

Among the properties of prairie plants emphasized by Shimek (1925) was that of persistence. He referred several times to the way in which prairie species would persist in undisturbed strips and reinvade land which had been cleared of them, (1913,) (1931). This depends, however, upon natural sowing of seeds with subsequent establishment of colonies. This note deals with actual transplanting of living plants.

On July 10, 1941, the writer, assisted by members of a class in Field Biology at the Iowa Lakeside Laboratory, transplanted a small group of prairie species to a section of the Laboratory property where none were growing at that time. The site chosen is among the Laboratory buildings on a gravel knob about 85 feet above Lake level. This ground has had a diverse history but in 1941 had a plant cover composed mostly of *Agropyron repens*, *Melilotus alba*, *M. officinalis* and *Bromus inermis*, the latter established by seeding a few years previous. Prairie species for transplanting were obtained from a neighboring gravel pit. Plants were dug with sod adhering, as much as could be lifted on a spade, were hauled by truck and watered upon planting. There had been 0.97 inches of rain the preceding day and 0.18 inches fell two hours after the transplanting. With the aid of a plane table a chart was made by which all transplantings could be located. The plot was examined again on August 18, 1942, and on August 20, 1944 with following results:

SPECIMENS PLANTED

	AUG. 18, 1942	AUG. 20, 1944
<i>Amorpha canescens</i>	absent	absent
<i>Andropogon furcatus</i>	present	present
<i>Andropogon scoparius</i>		
2 specimens)	present	not found
<i>Anemone cylindrica</i>	fruiting	present
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	flowered, no fruit	not found
<i>Aster laevis</i>		
2 specimens)	1 specimen flowering	1 specimen
<i>Brauneria augustifolia</i>	absent	absent
<i>Coreopsis palmata</i>	fruiting	present
<i>Kuhnia eupatorioides</i>	absent	absent
<i>Liatris scariosa</i>		
(4 specimens)	2 specimens flowering	absent
<i>Lepachys pinnata</i>	barely living	vigorous, flowering
<i>Rosa suffulta</i>		
(3 specimens)	absent	absent
	<i>Solidago rigida</i>	present
	<i>Allium stellatum</i>	present
	<i>Oxybaphus hirsutus</i>	present

Now July is not usually considered a good month for transplanting perennials, though opportunity was made of a favorable spell of weather. Out of the original 12 species and 19 specimens planted we have 5 species and the same number of specimens present three years later, and this in competition with the weedy flora general on that hill top. In addition three species which were inadvertently transplanted seem to be doing very well. Remembering the way some prairie species seem to go through years of dormancy, then reappear, some transplants seen in 1942 may still be living.

This may be regarded as a successful venture. There seems reason to think that if good horticultural methods are used, many prairie species may be transplanted successfully.

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY
UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

LITERATURE CITED

- Shimek, B. 1913. An Artificial Prairie. Bull. Lab. Nat. Hist. S.U.I. VI, no. 4; 35-42.
1925. The Persistence of the Prairie. University of Iowa Studies in Nat. Hist. XI no. 5; 3-24.
1931. Relation Between Migrant and Native Flora of the Prairie Region. U. of I. Studies in Nat. Hist. XIV no. 2; 10-16.