

Local Native Seed Collection and Production – Ottawa National Forest

2006 Accomplishments

This project was begun in 2005 with seed collected on the Ottawa NF from ten grass and wildflower species. Seeds were subsequently planted in two fields at the J.W. Toumey Nursery in Watersmeet, MI. The objective is to produce western Upper Peninsula genotypes of native herb species for use in revegetation and restoration projects on the Ottawa NF.

Of the ten species, two did not germinate: Joe-Pye weed and fowl manna grass. The others, big bluestem, bearded short-husk, poverty oats, Canada wildrye, bottlebrush, false sunflower, evening primrose, and black-eyed susan, all germinated well. Growth was good for all except the Canada wildrye and bearded short-husk. Toumey Nursery personnel cultivated the soil, seeded the fields, weeded and watered. They tried one application of 2,4-D for weed control and also tried one application of fertilizer. Seed yield varied; expectations were for the plants to become established this year and become strong seed producers in 2007 and 2008. Considerable seed has been collected for cleaning and storage from big bluestem, bottlebrush, evening primrose and black-eyed susan this year.

Additional seeding, weeding, and field care are planned for 2007. Delivery of seeds for use on Forest is scheduled for 2008.



Black-eyed susan ready for seed collection in field at Toumey Nursery



*Above:
Collecting seed
by flailvac at
Toumey
Nursery*



*Right: Evening
primrose
hanging (to
drop seed for
collection)*

Year Awarded: 2005
Project completion: 2008
Report number: 2 of 4
Expenditures: \$0

Other Funding: \$7,000 in-kind from Toumey Nursery

Partners/Contractors/Cooperators:
J.W. Toumey Nursery

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