

Native Prairie Seed Increase Project at Clymer Meadow

2009 Accomplishments

Status of Project Accomplishment: The Blackland Prairie of Texas once spanned more than 12 million acres between the Red River and San Antonio. Today, it is estimated that less than 1% remains. Restoration of native prairie plant communities is an essential strategy for increasing the acres under native vegetation, enhancing degraded remnants and buffering extant remnants. Lack of seed stock of local genetic origin is an impediment to accomplishing true restoration. The Nature Conservancy's Clymer Meadow Preserve has long been used as a seed source for prairie restoration. Recently, old agricultural lands within the preserve have been converted to seed increase plots for selected local native grasses.

The Conservancy has entered into an agreement with USFS to harvest wild seed from extant prairie and increase seed within plots to provide stock for restoration at the Caddo National Grasslands. Since the agreement's execution in July of 2008, Conservancy staff has completed site preparation and planting for an expansion of eastern gamagrass seed production plots, completed remodeling of the seed cleaning barn, including installation of lights, partial concrete floor, electrical upgrades and installation of a seed mill. Enhanced irrigation nears completion with the installation of more than 1,000 feet of 1-inch PVC which supports 40 irrigation risers. Within the past year, 240 acres were burned to enhance seed production composition quality. This year, due to good summer rains, we expect a high yield of both Indiangrass and upland switchgrass.

Young eastern gamagrass begins to establish in the new plot (below).



2-acre upland switchgrass plot is expected to have spectacular yield

Native Plant Program

- **Total Native Seed Project Cost including equipment: \$40,000**
- **Employed: 2**
- **Type of Project: Increase and harvest native prairie seed for use at the Caddo National Grasslands**
- **For More Information, Contact: Tom Philipps 1-936-639-8514**



New seed mill installed at seed handling facility



More than 1,000 feet of buried irrigation line installed.



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New eastern gamagrass seedlings emerge in plot expansion