

# Native Genotypes for Southern Appalachian Bioregion

## 2009 Accomplishments

The project was developed to collect and establish Southern Appalachian grass and forb genotypes for evaluation and production. These genotypes will be utilized in the future to restore plant communities after invasive plant control projects or severe burns, for establishment in newly disturbed areas, and establishment for wildlife benefit.

Common easily-established native species were targeted for collections across 5 southern Appalachian national forests in Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. The following common grasses were selected for collections: little bluestem, Indian grass, Virginia wild rye, purple top, and deer-tongue witch grass. Rattleweed, partridge-pea, grass-leaved golden-aster, Maryland golden-aster, Stiffleaf Coreopsis, and black-eyed Susan were selected as forbs to collect.

An agreement was developed with the NC Botanical Garden to collect seed from each species across 5 sites per state. Targeted seed (total 10 lbs of grasses and 5 lbs. of forbs) will be collected through early December of 2009. Collections may continue into the 2010 season for those species with poor fruiting in 2009. Seed will be cleaned at the National Seed Laboratory in Macon, Georgia in December of 2009.

Another agreement was established with Warren Wilson College in NC to produce 20,000 plugs for production and evaluation beds. The collected species will be evaluated in 2010 by each state for adaptability and establishment vigor at Warren Wilson College and Beech Creek Seed Orchard on the Nantahala NF. One acre seed production beds will be established at each site and developed with collections and increases in size through 2012. Production bed sites were established at Beech Creek Seed Orchard in 2009 to eliminate weeds to provide quick establishment with plugs in the early spring of 2010.



Purple Top (*Tridens flavus*)

Year Awarded: 2009  
Project completion: 2012  
Report number: 1 of 4

#### Expenditures:

- FY09 funding: \$218,178
- Expended: \$188,000
- Remaining: \$30,000

Partners/Contractors/Coop:  
North Carolina Botanical Garden,  
Warren Wilson College, Beech  
Creek Seed Orchard, USDA  
National Seed Lab

Contact Person & phone number:  
Gary Kauffman, (828) 257-4861  
NFs in North Carolina



Grass-leaved golden aster  
(*Pityopsis graminifolia* var. *latifolia*)



Virginia wild rye (*Elymus virginicus*)



**National Forests in North Carolina, Francis Marion & Sumtner NFs, Cherokee NF, Chatahoochee-Oconee NF, George Washington & Jefferson NFs**