

Eleven Point Pollinator and Native Plant Garden on the Mark Twain National Forest

2010 Accomplishments

The Eleven Point Ranger District office was constructed in 2003 in a fescue field along State Highway 160, which is a key east-west highway across southern Missouri. This office is used by local communities for meetings and receives a heavy volume of visitors due to its location on Highway 160.

Construction of a 1.8-acre interpretive pollinator and native plant garden was initiated in 2009 with preparation of the seedbed. Tall fescue and Bermuda grass were treated with herbicides several times to eradicate these undesirable species. The residual thatch was burned on January 19, 2010. Thirty-one native wildflower species and nine native grass species were planted with a no-till drill on January 27th in cooperation with the Missouri Department of Conservation and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

During the growing season, the site was mowed several times to prevent weeds from going to seed and to allow sunlight to reach the slower growing native seedlings. The initial mowing was set at 6" high and two subsequent mowings were set at 8" high. Weeds were abundant this first year, but several native wildflowers bloomed unexpectedly, including partridge pea, plains coreopsis, and black-eyed susan. Most of the native species planted in 2010 will not bloom until 2012.



Figure 1. Burning thatch to prepare seedbed.

This year we purchased materials to accomplish the burning, planting, and mowing. We also procured slate markers to be placed throughout the garden to identify the 40 native plant species. We will monitor the garden in 2011, and if undesirable species are still abundant, mow at 8" high immediately after weed seed head development. Once the pollinator and native plant garden is well established, an interpretive sign, picnic tables, and benches will be installed.

Year awarded: initial award in 2009
Project completion: 2012

Expenditures (through 10/2010):
FY09 funding \$14,000, expend. \$14,000
FY10 funding \$1,000, expend. \$1,000

Partners/Contractors/Coop: MDC, NRCS

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Figure 2. First growing season for native garden .



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