

Native Plant Program on the Green Mountain & Finger Lakes National Forest

2011 Accomplishments

In 2011, a third native plant garden, this time at the Middlebury District office, was developed, and two existing native plant gardens at other district offices were maintained. At the end of the season, a public presentation was held on how to develop a native plant garden. In addition, fencing was provided for a butternut seed orchard project. Finally, a native plant project that was begun in a previous year, and continued this year, was developing an ongoing supply of seeds of native species with local genotypes. This seed collection project is described in detail below.

The Northeast Native Seed Initiative (NNSI), formed in 2008 to develop an ongoing supply of seeds of native species of local genotypes, continued to move forward. In 2009 the species list was refined, fact sheets were developed, and a contractor was hired to organize the volunteer seed collection effort. Because it was difficult to find enough volunteers to collect seed (especially outside VT), in 2010 a contract was awarded to the New England Wildflower Society to collect seeds over the next year in New Hampshire and Maine. That contract was expanded to include more locations in those states, plus Vermont, in 2011, and an additional contract was awarded to collect seeds in the Adirondacks of northern New York. The next step is to find a grower interested in producing a sustainable supply of the native species with local genotypes.



Figure 1. Toothwort, critical to the life cycle of the West Virginia White butterfly, was encouraged in the Rochester garden in 2010 and continued to thrive in 2011 (photo by seasonal botanist Melissa Green).



Figure 2. Native plant gardening at the Middlebury District Office involved establishing one new garden site, and replacing some existing landscaping with native plants (photo by seasonal botanist Melissa Green.)

Year Awarded: 2011

Project completion: Gardens Completed;
Seed Collection Ongoing

Report number: 1

Expenditures:

- Salary: \$10,300
- Garden Supplies & Educational Signs: \$1,700
- Fencing for butternut seed orchard: \$5,000
- Contracts for seed collection: \$13,000

Partners: New England Wildflower Society (Contractor)
David Werier (Local botanical contractor)

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