

White Mountain National Forest Native Plant Pollinator Gardens at the Administrative Complex

2011 Accomplishments

Since 2009, the White Mountain National Forest has been striving to develop the landscape at its new Supervisor's Office/Pemigewasset Ranger District facility utilizing native plant materials. The overall intention is to develop the entire site as a complex of native plant pollinator gardens. Progress is slow, but steady. In 2009, a wetland native plant pollinator garden was installed in a storm water detention wetland, in 2010 a native shrub thicket garden and entrance gardens were installed not only to serve the local pollinator population, but to serve as a teaching opportunity about native plant landscaping and for the enjoyment of the visitors to this facility. A wildflower meadow and seed production area was also conceived and a local provenance seed mix sown on the site of the facilities leach field in 2009. Despite the application of 6-8 inches of loam to the site, it remains a droughty area and has proved challenging for seeds to germinate. The year 2010 passed with little sign of successful seed germination.

In 2011, the focus was to acquire local provenance plugs of native species and use these to augment the previously sown seed mix. To this end 5,100 plugs of native asters, goldenrods, milkweeds, and a handful of various other species were acquired from a local nursery. Due to the late arrival of this stock they are still being planted in the meadow area and other sites around the White Mountain headquarters facility. However, much to our delight thousands of small seedlings and many first year plants resulting from the seed mix sown in 2009 were found to be happily colonizing the meadow area. Additional shrubs and potted native plants were also acquired to augment the entrance gardens and the shrub thicket area.

Some of the funding was also used to support a portion of a seasonal botanist time to collect seeds of a large variety of native species occurring on the White Mountain National Forest. This year the focus was on collecting a small amount of a large variety of species, to this end seeds were collected from 78 species of shrubs, forbs and graminoids. Shrub seeds were directly sown in flats while other seeds were cleaned, dried, and will be stored for future sowing in a seed production meadow.

*Pollinators on New England aster
(Symphyotrichum novae-angliae)*



*Rough-stemmed goldenrod (Solidago rugosa)
with pollinator.*



Wildflower seed production meadow on leach field of the WMNF Administrative Complex.



A small portion of the native plant seed collected on the WMNF drying in the office.

Project awarded 2011

Report number: 1 of 2

Project expenditures

FY 2011 funding: \$31,000.00

FY2011 WMAC funding: \$12,951.00

Staff/site preparation: \$4,451.00

Materials: \$8,500.00

FY2011 Seed Collection Funding: \$4,324.00

Contractors, Partners, Cooperators

Clements Nursery

Contact:

Christopher Mattrick, Forest Botanist

603-536-6225

cmattrick@fs.fed.us

All images by Christopher Mattrick



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71 White Mountain Drive

Campton, NH 03223