

Native Prairie Seed Increase Project at Clymer Meadow

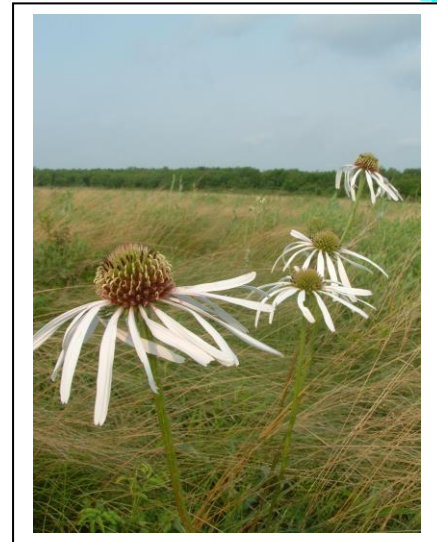
2013 Accomplishments

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. The following bullet points are a summary of activities in 2013:

- Initiation of modification of irrigation system, which will replace tripod sprinklers in late 2013.
- Hand harvest of approximately 50 lbs of "oddball" and conservative species including roundhead prairie clover, blue wild indigo, roughleaf silphium, sideoats grama, Canada wildrye, Topeka prairie coneflower, prairie cordgrass and compass plant.
- Seed increase plots yielded 8 bulk lbs of Indiangrass and approximately 5 lbs of gamagrass (Oct & June 2012 harvest)
- Increase plots received nicosulfuron application to control Johnsongrass.
- Over 400 acres of Clymer Meadow was burned in the reporting period with a commensurate increase in conservative species. Floristic quality for a portion of the meadow scored an astonishing 14 FQI.
- In concert with USFS, vegetation sampling (cover and frequency via quadrat) was conducted on the restoration on the Ladonia unit. For second year of establishment, there was encouraging appearance of seeded species.

Further, under separate funding, the Conservancy will construct a container plant nursery slated for completion this calendar year. Hand harvested rare species will be increased there, with some product going directly to restoration while others will be planted in seed increase plots.



Echinacea pallida and *Sporobolus silvenanus* on Tridens Prairie harvest site. Photo by Bill Carr

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**

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