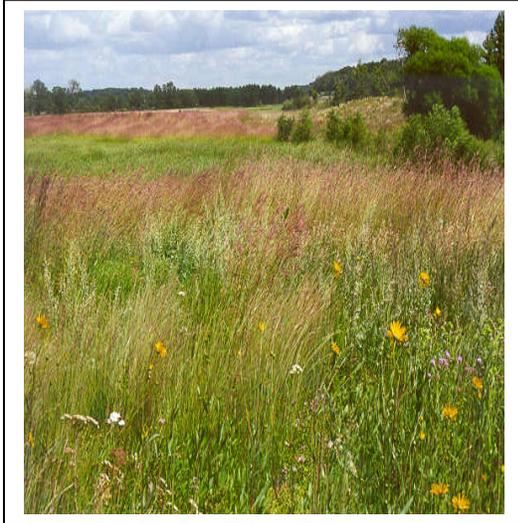


## **Animal Enhancement Activity – ANM 21 - *Prairie Restoration for Grazing and Wildlife Habitat***



### **Prairie Restoration for Grazing and Wildlife Habitat**

This activity consists of restoring/renovating prairie habitat by establishing native vegetation and managing the restored plant community.

### **Land Use Applicability**

This enhancement is applicable to cropland, pastureland and rangeland that can be restored to native prairie vegetation.

### **Benefits**

Establishing and managing native prairie vegetation will provide food, cover, and nesting habitat for

adapted species, especially grassland nesting birds.

### **Criteria for Prairie Restoration for Grazing and Wildlife Habitat**

The resulting plant community will consist of at least 10 species of native perennial grasses and at least 6 species of native perennial forbs or other amounts prescribed by the NRCS State Office. Species appropriate fungal and microbial inoculants will be used during establishment where appropriate. Additional planting conditions may be specified if an ecological site description has been developed for the area.

After establishment, the field will be protected from grazing and disturbance during the primary nesting and fawning season as defined by the NRCS State Office. A grazing management plan will be prepared, documented, and followed. Grazing intensity outside of the nesting season will never exceed “moderately” grazed as defined by the NRCS State Office. Rest or rotation intervals will also be documented.

### **Documentation Requirements for Prairie Restoration for Grazing and Wildlife Habitat**

Following implementation of this activity, the landowner must document the restoration of native vegetation by providing a brief written description of the actions taken; providing receipts and dates; documenting the area (acres) restored, grazing management plan, and delineating the location of the restored prairie on a map or aerial photograph.



United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

## **NH State Supplement ANM21 – Prairie Restoration for Grazing and Wildlife Habitat**

### **Seed Mixes for Prairie Restoration**

Refer to Plant Materials Technical Note No. NY-36

Seek assistance from NRCS in preparing an appropriate mix for the site.

[ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/VT/Technical/TechNotes/Plant\\_Materials/TN36\\_Wildlife\\_Seedings.pdf](ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/VT/Technical/TechNotes/Plant_Materials/TN36_Wildlife_Seedings.pdf)

## PLANT MATERIALS TECHNICAL NOTE

**Table 1. Seed Mixtures and Soil Suitability Recommendations for Conservation Cover  
 (Introduced Species) <sup>1</sup>**

Seed Mixtures	Drainage Class				
	EWD	WD	MWD	SPD	PD
Orchardgrass 5 lbs/ac <b>and</b> Hard Fescue 6 lbs/ac <b>plus</b> Ladino Clover (upright improved varieties ) 2 lbs/ac <b>and</b> Red Clover 2 lbs/ac <b>or</b> 3 lbs/ac Birdsfoot trefoil ( upright varieties i.e. Pardee, Norcen or viking)		X	X		
Timothy 3 lbs/ac <b>and</b> Orchardgrass 4 lbs/ac <b>and</b> Bromegrass 3 lbs/ac <b>plus</b> Ladino Clover (upright improved varieties ) 2 lbs/ac <b>and</b> Red Clover 2 lbs/ac <b>or</b> 3 lbs/ac Birdsfoot trefoil ( upright varieties i.e. Pardee Norcen or viking)		X	X	X	
Timothy 3 lbs/ac <b>and</b> Orchardgrass 4 lbs/ac <b>and</b> Red top .5 lb/ac <b>plus</b> Ladino Clover (upright improved varieties ) 2 lbs/ac <b>and</b> Red Clover 2 lbs/ac <b>or</b> 3 lbs/ac Birdsfoot trefoil ( upright varieties i.e. Pardee) Norcen or viking)		X	X	X	X
Timothy 5 lbs/ac <b>and</b> Orchardgrass 5 lbs/ac <b>plus</b> Ladino Clover (upright improved varieties ) 2 lbs/ac <b>and</b> Red Clover 2 lbs/ac <b>or</b> 3 lbs/ac Birdsfoot trefoil ( upright varieties i.e. Pardee Norcen or viking)		X	X	X	

<sup>1</sup> Use early varieties of the grasses when available to facilitate earlier stem elongation providing earlier cover.  
 These seeding recommendations are for wildlife purposes and not for critical area and highly erodible areas.

EWD = Excessively Well Drained; WD = Well Drained; MWD = Moderately Well Drained;  
 SPD = Somewhat Poorly Drained; PD = Poorly Drained

TECHNICAL NOTES

**Table 2. Seed Mixtures and Soil Suitability Recommendations for Conservation Cover  
(Native Warm Season Grass Species )<sup>1</sup>**

**Grass seeding rates are PURE LIVE SEED.** These seeding rates ASSUME drilling seed and proper weed control. If a drill is NOT used, increase total grass seeding rate by 20%.

Seed Mixtures	Drainage Class				
	EWD	WD	MWD	SPD	PD
Switchgrass 2 lbs/ac <b>and</b> <sup>2</sup> Deertongue 4 lbs/ac <b>and</b> Eastern gamagrass 5 lbs/ac <b>optional</b> *Native Forbs		X	X	X	X
Big bluestem 2 lbs/ac <b>and</b> Indiangrass 3 lbs/ac <b>and</b> Little bluestem 3 lbs/ac <b>and</b> Deertongue 2 lbs/ac <b>optional</b> *Native Forbs	X	X			
Big bluestem 4 lbs/ac <b>and</b> Indiangrass 4 lbs/ac <b>and</b> Switchgrass 2 lbs/ac <b>optional</b> *Native Forbs	X	X	X	X	
Big bluestem 3 lbs/ac <b>and</b> Indiangrass 3 lbs/ac <b>and</b> Deertongue 3 lbs/ac <b>and</b> Switchgrass 2 lbs/ac <b>optional</b> *Native Forbs		X	X	X	X

\* Utilizing 5 species from the list. Rates based on seed size and weight and cost consideration.

<sup>1</sup> These seeding recommendations are for wildlife purposes and not for critical area and highly erodible areas

<sup>2</sup> This mix will not require the use of a native grass drill. If seeding conventionally, seed gamagrass 1-1 1/2" deep in grain box. Seed the remaining grass in legume box, pull tubes to allow surface seeding. Cultipack after drilling. The rest of the mixes will require a native grass drill.

EWD = Excessively Well Drained; WD = Well Drained; MWD = Moderately Well Drained;  
SPD = Somewhat Poorly Drained; PD = Poorly Drained

**Table 3. Seed Mixtures and Soil Suitability Recommendations for Conservation Cover  
(Native Warm and Cool Season Grass Species )<sup>1</sup>**

**Grass seeding rates are PURE LIVE SEED.** These seeding rates ASSUME No-Till Seeding. If a No-Till Drill is NOT used, increase Total grass seeding rate by 2 lbs. proportional based on existing seeding ratio.

Seed Mixtures <sup>2</sup>	Drainage Class				
	EWD	WD	MWD	SPD	PD
Indiangrass 2 lbs/ac <b>and</b> Switchgrass 1 lb/ac <b>and</b> Little blustem 3 lbs/ac <b>and</b> Canada wildrye 5 lbs/ac <b>optional</b> *Native Forbs	X	X			
Big bluestem 4 lbs/ac <b>and</b> Indiangrass 2 lbs/ac <b>and</b> Switchgrass 1 lb/ac <b>and</b> Canada wildrye 5 lbs/ac <b>optional</b> *Native Forbs		X	X		
Big bluestem 4 lbs/ac <b>and</b> Eastern gamagrass 2 lbs/ac <b>and</b> Switchgrass 1 lb/ac <b>and</b> Virginia wildrye 4 lbs/ac <b>and</b> Deertongue 1 lb/ac <b>optional</b> *Native Forbs			X	X	
Fowl bluegrass 1/2 lb/ac <b>and</b> Fringed bromegrass 4 lbs/ac <b>and</b> Riverbank wildrye 4 lbs/ac <b>and</b> Virginia wildrye 4 lbs/ac <b>and</b> Switchgrass 1/2 lb/ac <b>optional</b> *Native Forbs		X	X	X	X
Fringed bromegrass 4 lbs/ac <b>and</b> Canada wildrye 6 lbs/ac <b>and</b> Switchgrass 1 lbs/ac <b>and</b> Deertongue 2 lbs/ac <b>optional</b> *Native Forbs		X	X	X	

\* Utilizing five species from the list. Rates based on seed size and weight and cost consideration.

<sup>1</sup> These seeding recommendations are for wildlife purposes and not for critical area and highly erodible areas.

<sup>2</sup> Low rates of switchgrass, deertongue, and fowl bluegrass will require monitoring of seedbox to maintain seed over seed drop opening.

EWD = Excessively Well Drained; WD = Well Drained; MWD = Moderately Well Drained;  
SPD = Somewhat Poorly Drained; PD = Poorly Drained

**Table 4. Seed Mixtures and Soil Suitability Recommendations for Conservation Cover  
(Native Cool Season Grass Species )**

**Grass seeding rates are PURE LIVE SEED.** These seeding rates ASSUME No-Till Seeding. If a No-Till Drill is NOT used, increase Total grass seeding rate by 2 lbs. proportional based on existing seeding ratio.

Seed Mixtures	Drainage Class				
	EWD	WD	MWD	SPD	PD
Canada wildrye 5 lbs/ac <b>and</b> Riverbank wildrye 3 lbs/ac <b>and</b> and Bottlebrush 2 lbs/ac <b>optional</b> *Native Forbs		X	X	X	
Canada wildrye 4 lbs/ac <b>and</b> Virginia wildrye 4 lbs/ac <b>and</b> Riverbank wildrye 4 lbs/ac <b>and</b> Fringed brome grass 4 lbs/ac <b>and</b> <b>optional</b> *Native Forbs		X	X	X	
Riverbank wildrye 4 lbs/ac <b>and</b> Virginia wildrye 4 lbs/ac <b>and</b> Fringed brome grass 6 lbs/ac <b>and</b> and Fowl bluegrass 1/2 lb/ac <sup>2</sup> <b>optional</b> *Native Forbs				X	X

\* Utilizing five species from the list. Rates based on seed size and weight and cost consideration.

<sup>1</sup> These seeding recommendations are for wildlife purposes and not for critical area and highly erodible areas.

<sup>2</sup> Fowl bluegrass can be too competitive at high seeding rates, at low rates need to check seed box to assure flowing into seed drop opening, or divide seed into smaller units and place with the other seeds at appropriate intervals.

EWD = Excessively Well Drained; WD = Well Drained; MWD = Moderately Well Drained;  
SPD = Somewhat Poorly Drained; PD = Poorly Drained