



THE ROLE OF THE USDA-NRCS PLANT MATERIALS PROGRAM IN INCREASING PLANT DIVERSITY IN GRASSLAND RESTORATION

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The success of large-scale restoration depends on many variables, some of which are out of our control. One important variable within our control is the use of tested and proven seed sources. The USDA-NRCS Plant Materials Program was established to develop techniques for conservation planning and planting, to evaluate native plants for use throughout different regions addressing various resource concerns and supply the commercial market with proven seed sources. Currently, the Plant Materials Program maintains hundreds of native seed sources to ensure the commercial industry can meet the restoration needs.

The importance of plant diversity in healthy ecosystems is critical for grassland restoration. This presentation will focus on the NRCS plant evaluation, selection and release process as well as highlight the benefits of increased plant diversity in grassland restoration.

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