

# FY 2010 Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program

## Local Ecotype Vegetation and Seed Guidelines

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*This document replaces requirements listed in the FY2010 CPL Program Manual, Section B, page 3, Local Vegetation and Seed Guidelines.*

- 2009 MN Session Law [Chapter 172](#), Article 1, Section 2, Subd. 5a sets for the following requirements for CPL grants:
  - To the extent possible, a person conducting prairie restorations with money appropriated in this section must plant vegetation or sow seed only of ecotypes native to Minnesota, and preferably of the local ecotype, using a high diversity of species originating from as close to the restoration site as possible, and protect existing native prairies from genetic contamination. Subdivision 10 applies to grants awarded under this paragraph.
- Subd. 10, Project Requirements, repeats this for all appropriations:
  - As a condition of accepting an appropriation in this section, any agency or entity receiving an appropriation must, for any project funded in whole or in part with funds from the appropriation:
    - (1) plant vegetation or sow seed only of ecotypes native to Minnesota, and preferably of the local ecotype, using a high diversity of species originating from as close to the restoration site as possible, and protect existing native prairies from genetic contamination, to the extent possible if conducting prairie restorations is a component of the accomplishment plan;

In order to meet these requirements for all projects involving prairie restorations, grantees must:

1. Document their attempts to meet the requirements above.
2. Obtain approval from the public land manager or easement holder for the vegetation or seed to be planted.
3. Provide written documentation to the public land manager or easement holder describing where the seed originated from if “yellow tags” are not available.
4. All seed shall be supplied as Pure Live Seed (PLS).
5. Use seed sources within, or adjacent to, the same ecoregion, to the extent possible. The Minnesota Ecological Sections and Subsections map located at [www.bwsr.state.mn.us/wetlands/vegetation/index.html](http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/wetlands/vegetation/index.html) shows areas of the state with ecological similarities and can be used as a guide for selecting seed. 150 miles is recommended as a maximum distance for obtaining seed for a project. Projects near a state border can use seed from an adjoining state or province (up to 100 from the Minnesota border) as long as the eco-type conditions in the adjoining state are similar to the project location.
6. Use seed mixes that are an appropriate match for the specific site conditions.

7. Suggested seed mixes are available at [www.bwsr.state.mn.us/wetlands/vegetation/index.html](http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/wetlands/vegetation/index.html). The public land manager or easement holder must approve the vegetation and/or seed mix to be used. Substitutions of individual species are acceptable if they meet the intended goals of a project/program and are approved by the public land manager or private landowner and easement holder.
8. Avoid the use of cultivars or varieties that have undergone an intentional selection process.
9. Use a high diversity of species originating from as close to the restoration site as possible. At least 20 species per seed mix (25 species if only one mix will be used) for a project is preferred.
10. Protect existing prairies from genetic contamination and invasive/noxious species to the extent possible.

### **Project Installation and Maintenance**

Project site preparation, seeding/planting and maintenance need to be well planned and conducted to result in successful projects. The following documents provide guidelines for the use of native seeds and plants:

Minnesota Wetland Restoration Guide

[http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/publications/restoration\\_guide.html](http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/publications/restoration_guide.html)

NRCS practice standard 643 [www.bwsr.state.mn.us/grantscostshare/native-buffer.html](http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/grantscostshare/native-buffer.html)

Plants for Stormwater Design

[www.pca.state.mn.us/publications/manuals/stormwaterplants.html](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/publications/manuals/stormwaterplants.html)

Restore Your Shore [www.dnr.state.mn.us/restoreyourshore/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/restoreyourshore/index.html)

Going Native, A Prairie Restoration Guide for Minnesota Landowners

[www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/pubs\\_restoration.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/pubs_restoration.html)

A Soil Bioengineering Guide for Streambank and Shoreline Stabilization

[www.fs.fed.us/publications/soil-bio-guide/](http://www.fs.fed.us/publications/soil-bio-guide/)