

# Development of Native Grass Seed Source in Michigan's Northern Lower Peninsula – Huron-Manistee National Forests

## 2005 Accomplishments

Two of the top priorities for the Forest Service are slowing the spread of non-native invasive weeds and promoting healthy forests. This project combines those goals by providing the Forests with sources of native grass seed, a critical missing component for restoration and maintenance of our fire-related ecosystems. This multi-year undertaking also encourages rural industries to produce local, native genotype plant material by providing the economic incentive for crop establishment, reducing the economic risk of a new small business venture, and by providing technical assistance for successful native seed production. Other state and local agencies will also benefit from the availability of these seeds, providing greater assurance of continued demand for local growers.

As a direct result of this project, for the first time ever, The Michigan Crop Improvement Association has certified a Michigan-produced seed as native.



*Grower irrigates little bluestem during dry times*

Total Project Cost:	\$52,700
Expenditures 2005	\$ 5,860

Received:  
200 pounds big bluestem  
150 pounds little bluestem  
50 pounds switchgrass  
35 pounds Indian grass

Growers:  
Native Connections  
Gaia Grass  
Michigan Wildflower Farm



*The Forest receiving first native seed delivery from grower*



**Huron-Manistee National Forests**  
1755 South Mitchell St.  
Cadillac, MI 49601

For more information about the Native Plants Program on the Huron-Manistee National Forest call:  
Alix Cleveland (231) 775-5023