

GROWING NORTHERN NATIVE GRASSES COMMERCIALLY: A WORKSHOP FOR INTERESTED GARDENERS AND FARMERS – Ottawa National Forest

2006 Accomplishments

Use of local native plants in revegetation, rehabilitation and restoration is desired on the Ottawa National Forest, but a lack of local growers and available seeds prevents implementation. To improve this situation, the Ottawa used NFN3 funding to complete the following steps:

1. Collected seed from six graminoids: *Schizachne purpurascens* (false melic grass); *Oryzopsis asperifolia* (rough-leaved rice grass); *Milium effusum* (wild millet); *Brachyelytrum erectum* (bearded shorthusk); *Carex crinita* (fringed sedge) and *Cinna latifolia* (drooping woodreed). These graminoids have wide application for mesic to dry sites on the Ottawa, such as skid trails, landings, wildlife openings, trailheads, and other sites needing revegetation.

2. Conducted a 1-day workshop in July for potential local growers to explain the reasons for using native seed, possible markets, and methods for collecting and growing seed. Slide presentations were given by four speakers and a field trip was conducted at Toumey Nursery. There were 19 attendees, several of whom have expressed interest in obtaining seed and trying to grow it.

3. In the fall, the Ottawa NF will provide starter seed to the interested growers to help them develop methods and experience in growing these plants. These growers would then become potential bidders on future Ottawa contracts to supply native seed.



Workshop attendees view seed cleaning equipment at Toumey Nursery

Year Awarded: 2006
Project completion: 2006
Report number: 1 of 1
Expenditures:
FY06 funding
\$12,366 (expended)

Partners/Contractors/Cooperators:
J.W. Toumey Nursery, JFNew Nursery, local farmers and growers, North Woods Native Plant Project

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Workshop participants listen to featured speaker, Bob Allison of JFNew Nurseries



Fringed sedge and false melic grass



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