

Atlantic Coastal Plain Longleaf Ecosystem Natives

FY 2009 Accomplishments

Fire-maintained longleaf pine ecosystems support some of the highest known herbaceous diversity in the United States. Yet, very few native ecotype seed sources are available commercially. This project is facilitating the development of native seed sources through the collection of 20 pounds of native grass and forb seed from National Forest lands in North and South Carolina. The seed is being used to establish two acres of production fields, one at Clemson Pee Dee Research and Education Center and the other at the Francis Marion seed orchard in South Carolina. Production fields will be monitored to determine the most cost effective and successful native seed production methods, while maintaining genetic diversity.

Target species were selected based on their record for producing high rates of viable seed and for providing ecosystem services such as site stabilization (native bunchgrasses), nitrogen fixation (native legumes), and food for wildlife and pollinators (native forbs).

As a result of our partnership with Clemson Pee Dee, a collaborative group of research, federal, state, and private entities has been formed to increase the production, availability, and use of native plant materials throughout South Carolina.



Toothache Grass – Ctenium aromaticum

Year Awarded: 2009

Project completion: 2012

Report number: (1 of 2)

Expenditures:

- FY09 funding: \$100,594
- Expend: \$75,000
- Remaining: \$25,594

Partners/Contractors/Coop:
Clemson Pee Dee Research and Education Center, Southern Research Station, USDA National Seed Lab, Jeff Glitzenstein

Contact Person & phone number:
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Longleaf Savanna on the Francis Marion NF



**Francis Marion and Sumter
National Forest**
4931 Broad River Road
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