

# Native Genotypes for the Southern Appalachian Bioregion

## 2010 Accomplishments

The project was developed to collect and establish Southern Appalachian grass and forb genotypes for evaluation and production. These genotypes will be utilized in the future to restore plant communities after invasive plant control projects or severe burns, for establishment in newly disturbed areas, and establishment for wildlife benefit.

In FY2010 about 15 lbs of the following grasses and forbs were collected from National Forests in NC., SC., Va., and Tenn.: little bluestem, Indian grass, Virginia wild rye, purple top, deer-tongue witch grass, rattleweed, grass-leaved golden-aster, Maryland golden-aster, and stiffleaf coreopsis. All the collected seed was cleaned at the National Seed Laboratory in Macon, Georgia and cleaning protocols were recorded.

In FY 2010 over 30,000 plugs were started with the collected seed. Sixty-nine separate seed lots of these grasses and forbs were planted across 1 acre at Warren Wilson College (WWC) and ½ acre at Beech Creek Seed Nursery in Cherokee, NC. The two sites are separated by over 100 aerial miles, which will ensure a robust evaluation of collected species by each state for adaptability and establishment vigor. Initial evaluations at WWC, where the plantings were established early in the year, indicate less adaptability for Virginia collected germplasm. Evaluations will continue for FY2011.

The additional funding in 2010 allowed for more seed collections by the NC Botanical Garden. It also provided funding for respective biologists across the five national forests, in particular the Chattahoochee, to locate high quality sites for under-collected species such as Virginia wild rye, rattleweed, black-eyed Susan, and partridge pea. Seed was collected in the fall of FY2010 and will continue through the fall and early winter of FY2011.



*Grasses and forbs early planting in June and blooming in October at increase beds at Warren Wilson College*



*Warren Wilson College students planting grass plugs at Beech Creek Tree Nursery*



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Project completion: 2012  
Report number: 2 of 4

#### Expenditures:

- FY09 funding: \$218,178
- FY10 funding: \$ 35,000
- Expended: \$188,000 in FY09; \$35,000 in FY 10
- Remaining: \$20,000

Other Funding Expenditures: NFWW \$3,000, NFWF \$2500

#### Partners/Contractors/Coop:

North Carolina Botanical Garden, Warren Wilson College, USDA Beech Creek Seed Orchard, USDA National Seed Lab

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