

Planting 43 – Experimental Area on Hotchkiss, along Lowden Rd. – Fall 1999

This area was originally set aside in spring 1998 to try to do an experiment to see which treatments work best to establish prairie in brome sod. We were going to try planting into sod spring and fall, burning some plots, herbiciding other, mowing some afterwards and some not, etc.

However, we realized that the best way to return former crop land that had been planted to non-native grass was to kill the grass (and other weeds that enter an area over time) with herbicides and that it would have to be herbicided more than once at different timings to get most of the grass and weeds.

Since we were doing this and wanting to do this in various areas throughout the preserve we decide not to bother with this little experiment.

The seed was purchased in 1998 and some was planted in the Northwest Hotchkiss Planting (the first planting, see map and key). Some of this seed was set aside for the “experiment” which we never did.

That site was burned off with the rest of the Northwest Hotchkiss planting and the emerging brome was herbicided. However, lots of ag. Weeds came up in this and the Northwest planting, such as alfalfa, morning glory, common milkweed, mullein, various grasses, etc. It was mowed for the milkweed in the summer of 1998 and for the mullein in Spring of 1999.

The site was herbicided in the late summer of 1999 with _____ for the grass and other weeds and _____ for the alfalfa.

It was planted in Spring of 2000 and mowed several times.

It was mowed in June of 2001 to cut down the Mullein. We hand removed any parsnip in June 2001 also.

July 3, 2009 Update by Bill Kleiman

This planting has a many, many plants of the invasive Asian bushclover, *Lespedeza daurica*. It may have come in with the Genesis seed order. The overlap of where it shows up is quite tight with the planting 23, and it is at HLP where we spread that seed mix. But we won't know where it came from in the end. Bushclovers are invasive and hard to control so we are trying to kill them. This June they were again abundant.

In June of 2008 we had Maplehurst spray 2-4-D on the entire Hotch 62 acres. This set back the clover but it was too late of an application for some weeds. It did not affect the asian bushclover, *Lespedeza daurica*.

Today, July 3, 2009, we sprayed 2 quarts per acre of Crossbow on the entire 62-acres. We hope to knock out the sweetclover and bushclover. About 8 days back I sprayed 1 ounce per gallon of Transline on about 12 acres along Lowden Road with bushclover as the target. The plants were not affected as of 8 days out. I either drove too fast for the tips or did not have enough herbicide.

We also had Genesis deliver to us seeds of *Echinacea purpurea*, which is not native to this region, when the order was for *E. pallida*. It was quite depressing to see those purple coneflowers coming up. We tried to spot spray them out but they were too numerous. They are in the Clear Creek planting too. This taught me the hard way that we need to harvest our own seed. Since this time we have a bigger summer crew who also works into fall and we have been harvesting our seed now for a decade.

I am not happy with the situation. We plan to manage it as a warm season and cool season grassland which will keep birds doing well.

- Bill Kleiman