

Planting 45 – Hotchkiss SE – Spring 2001 (originally slated for Spring 2000)

This area was mowed in the 1st week of September 1999, followed by, in the 3rd week of September, spraying with Roundup at 4 pints per acre with some Ammonium sulfate added.

This was then sprayed twice in 2000 with Roundup.

Then it was sprayed again with Roundup in May of 2001.

This was planted in June of 2001 using the new method with the limestone fertilizer buggy.

The seed species list is quite diverse. We mixed ComEd grant seed (Genesis Nursery) and the seed we'd set aside for this planting (Genesis seed via Clear Creek order) and Nachusa Grassland seed mix from Fall 2000. The rate was about 4.8 pounds per acre and then 3.7 lbs per acre of our Little bluestem and 2 lbs per acre of Indian/Big bluestem grass mix.

Genesis Seed List (2001)

Anemone cylindrica
Antennaria neglecta
Asclepias tuberosa
Aster azureus
Aster ericoides
Aster laevis
Aster ptarmicoides
Astragalus canadensis
Baptisia leucantha
Carex bicknellii
Carex annectens xanthocarpa
Desmanthus illinoensis
Euphorbia corollata
Heliopsis helianthoides
Koeleria cristata
Kuhnia eupatoroides
Lonicera prolifera
Monarda fistulosa
Onosmodium hispidissimum
Panicum leibergii
Parthenium intergrifolium
Penstemon pallidus
Petalostemum purpureum
Potentilla arguta
Rosa setigera
Rudbeckia subtomentosa
Solidago nemoralis
Solidago speciosa
Sporobolus heterolepis

Tradescania ohiensis
Verbena stricta

Additionally from previous Genesis mix set aside for this planting:

Bouteloua curtipendula
Elymus canadensis
Allium cernuum
Amorpha canescens
Asclepias verticillata
Cassia fasciculata
Coreopsis palmata
Desmodium illinoensis
Eryngium yuccafolium
Helianthus mollis
Helianthus occidentalis
Lespedeza capitata
Liatrix aspera
Penstemon digitalis
Potentilla arguta
Rosa carolina
Rudbeckia hirta
Senecio plattensis
Silphium laciniatum
Solidago graminifolia
Zizia aurea

July 3, 2009 Update by Bill Kleiman

This planting failed for the following reasons. An enormous crop of white sweet clover emerged from the CRP soil. It was so dense I could not see the ground, nor contemplate mowing the thick matt down. The plants were five foot high and overtopping all plants below. This was likely year two after planting. The CRP ground looked like it was clean of weeds but likely there was clover seeds in the soil. The field when first put into CRP may have had sweetclover in it and the seed was waiting for us to Roundup the brome grass.

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.

That is the second big problem. It appears that this Asian bushclover came in with the Genesis seed order. The overlap of where it shows up is quite tight with the planting 23. 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. The 2008 2-4-D did not do it. This June they were again abundant.

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.

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