



Establishing a Prairie

Site Determination

Soil type

- Dry – Mesic – Wet
- Sand – Silt/Loam – Clay
- Infiltration rate



Amount of Sun

- Full – Partial (savanna or wood's edge) – Shade



Plants

- Tall – Mixed – Short
- Geographic location
- Pollinators
- Diversity



Maximum sun and minimal root competition from trees is ideal

Local Sources for Seed/Seedlings/Plugs

- Prairie Moon Nursery, Winona
- Shooting Star Native Seeds, Spring Grove
- Prairie Restorations Inc

Additional Resources

- Winona County Soil & Water Conservation District
- MN Department of Natural Resources
 - o *Going Native* pdf handbook
- University of Minnesota Extension
- MN Board of Water & Soil Resources

Site Preparation

Remove existing vegetation

- Use dark plastic sheet over areas for at least 2 months before planting
- Nonselective herbicide with glyphosate to kill all vegetation (read label and follow directions), till area vegetation has died
- Rake out masses, manage with intensive mowing/burning for a few years

Seeding

- Broadcast onto natural ground in fall before freeze/thaw cycle or in spring after last thaw
- Broadcast onto a firm tilled soil surface
- Need even distribution and good seed-to-soil contact



REMEMBER

- Be patient!! Let roots settle, seeds will take 2-5 years to reach full size and bloom
- Control weed competition
 - o Year 1 mow 2-3 times to a 4-5" height
 - o Year 2 mow 1-2 times to an 8" height
 - o Year 3 conduct a controlled burn if able or cut and remove as much stubble material from site as possible
 - o Only hand weed, spray as last resort