

Title and Number of Planting: Dot & Doug Wade Prairie 2014 Planting #115

Authors of this History: Al and Mary Meier

Revision Date: 2/12/2016

Site Conditions:

Location: Ogle County, Taylor Township 22N, Range 10E, Section 16. This planting is approximately 6.66 acres in size, and is rectangular in shape. The GPS coordinates of the boundary corners are:

Southwest corner: N 41°53'38.87", W 089°21'11.99'
Northwest corner: N 41°53'43.12", W 089°21'11.84'
Northeast corner: N 41°53'43.12", W 089°21'3.17'
Southeast corner: N 41°53'38.76", W 089°21'3.17'

The site is bordered by Dot & Doug Wade Prairie 2013 Planting #110 on the south, Dot & Doug Wade Prairie 2012 Planting #106 on the southwest, Dot & Doug Wade Prairie 2013 Planting #109 on the west, Stone Barn Road and roadside on the north, and a fence line and right of way (off property) on the east.

Soil Types: According to the Ogle County Soil Survey, soils include:

Most of the northern half of the planting: #363C2 Griswold loam, 5 to 10% slopes, eroded
Much of the southern half of the planting: #397D Bonne sand, 7 to 15% slopes
Western edge of the planting: #223C2 Varna silt loam, 10 to 15% slopes
Northeastern corner: 440B #440B Jasper loam, 2 to 5% slopes

Topographic Features: The entire planting slopes markedly from east to west and gently from both the north and south edges towards the middle. There is a sandy ridge that dominates the southern portion of the planting. There is a drainage that runs from the north to the southwest, and empties into the fallow area between plantings 99 and 106.

Site History:

This planting probably had been in row crop production from at least 1939 until 1994. The 1939 aerial photo is a little dark over this area, but it appears to already be in row crops. The 1958 aerial clearly shows that the planting was in row crops at that time and continuously until 1994, when Bill Kleiman, Kevin Kaltenbach, and a few other stewards spread combine mix, not hand-collected mix, over the entire field that includes this planting. The mix contained mostly little bluestem. They did not plant enough seed, nor did they cover the planting evenly. They had expected to add more seed, but ran out. This planting did poorly, filling in with cool season grasses, some native prairie plants, and a lot of Rubus, invasive honeysuckle, and box elder seedlings from the fence line to the west.

Bill soon wanted to put the site back in corn, but Gene St. Louis, the unit's steward, decided to over-seed it instead. The field languished for a decade. It was mowed once or twice a year to knock down the woody plants. Gene over-seeded a good mix of species, but there was no apparent improvement. After several years of over-seeding, Bill had a farmer spray the area in the fall with a mix of Crossbow and Roundup. Then the farmer plowed it and planted corn in the spring. The corn was in this planting for eleven years.

Site Preparations:

After the 2014 corn crop was harvested, Mike Saxton mowed the cornfield. Due to an exceptionally cold and damp November, there was no opportunity to burn the corn stubble that month. On December 2, the crew attempted to burn the corn stubble, but it was too wet to burn. Bill Kleiman harrowed the field before and after the seeds were planted.

Since the planting was not burned, there was an excessive amount of corn stubble littering the ground. In some areas, the corn stubble covered almost 100% of the ground.

Seed Planting:

On November 8, Al and Mary Meier and a group of volunteers on a Saturday workday mixed the seeds in the Morton building. On December 5, Al planted 1/3 of the General seed mix in one pass, assisted by Bernie Buchholz. He used a McCormick drop seeder/lime spreader pulled by a UTV. Bernie moved orange cones to direct the path of the seeder. The following day, Al and Mary finished planting the General mix, completing two more full passes of the planting. They used the same technique having one drive and one move the orange cones.

The Dry and Wet mixes and hand plant items were planted on December 6, 9, and 13. The Dry mix seeds were sown on the sandy ridge in the southern half of the planting. The wet mix was sown in the drainage area.

Seed List:

Approximately 511 pounds of seed (including chaff and stems) were planted. A total of 135 species were included. Most of the seed was hand-harvested by Alan and Mary Meier, all of it in 2014. Thirty-four pounds of the little bluestem was combine-harvested. The bulk seed per acre average weight was 76.7 pounds.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Total lbs	Mix
<i>Allium cernuum</i>	Nodding Wild Onion	2.98	General
<i>Amorpha canescens</i>	Lead Plant	31.88	General
<i>Andropogon scoparium</i>	Little Bluestem	40.49	General
<i>Anemone canadensis</i>	Meadow Anemone	0.15	Wet
<i>Anemone cylindrica</i>	Thimbleweed	3.52	General

<i>Anemone virginiana</i>	Tall Thimbleweed	0.49	General
<i>Angelica atropurpurea</i>	Great Angelica	0.35	Wet
<i>Antennaria neglecta</i>	Field Cat's Foot	0.15	General
<i>Antennaria plantaginifolia</i>	Pussy Toes	2.93	General
<i>Apocynum androsaemifolium</i>	Spreading Dogbane	0.39	General
<i>Aristida purpurascens</i>	Arrow Feather	3.80	Dry
<i>Artemisia caudata</i>	Beech Wormwood	1.66	General
<i>Asclepias amplexicaulis</i>	Sand Milkweed	0.24	General
<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	Common Milkweed	0.15	General
<i>Asclepias verticillata</i>	Whorled milkweed	1.32	General
<i>Aster azureus</i>	Sky-blue Aster	5.53	General
<i>Aster ericoides</i>	Heath Aster	9.10	General
<i>Aster laevis</i>	Smooth Aster	6.36	General
<i>Aster linariifolius</i>	Stiff Aster	7.58	Dry; General
<i>Aster novae-angliae</i>	New England Aster	1.25	Wet
<i>Aster oblongifolius</i>	Aromatic Aster	0.83	Dry; General
<i>Aster ptarmicoides</i>	White Aster	0.20	Dry
<i>Aster sericeus</i>	Silky Aster	5.53	General
<i>Astragalus canadensis</i>	Canada Milk Vetch	1.37	General
<i>Baptisia leucantha</i>	White Wild Indigo	18.19	General
<i>Baptisia leucophaea</i>	Cream Wild Indigo	14.92	General
<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>	Side Oats Gramma	1.81	General
<i>Bouteloua hirsuta</i>	Moustache Grass (Hairy Grama)	0.10	Dry
<i>Cacalia atriplicifolia</i>	Pale Indian Plantain	3.33	General
<i>Carex bicknellii</i>	Bicknell's sedge	6.26	General
<i>Carex vulpinoidea</i>	Fox Sedge	2.50	Wet
<i>Cassia fasciculata</i>	Partridge Pea	0.39	General
<i>Castilleja sessiliflora</i>	Downy Yellow Painted Cup	1.45	Dry
<i>Chrysopsis camporum</i>	Golden Prairie Aster	0.54	Dry; General
<i>Comandra umbellata</i>	False Toadflax	0.24	General
<i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i>	Sand Coreopsis	0.15	Dry
<i>Coreopsis palmata</i>	Prairie Coreopsis	7.43	General
<i>Coreopsis tripteris</i>	Tall Coreopsis	1.17	General
<i>Crocanthemum bicknellii</i>	Bicknell's Frostweed	0.59	General
<i>Cyperus filiculmis</i>	Slender Sand Sedge	0.10	Dry
<i>Daisy Fleabane</i>	Erigeron strigosus	0.24	General
<i>Danthonia spicata</i>	Poverty Oat Grass	1.00	Dry
<i>Desmodium illinoense</i>	Illinois Tick Trefoil	0.68	General
<i>Dodecantheon meadia</i>	Shooting Star	2.05	General
<i>Echinacea pallida</i>	Pale Purple Coneflower	65.77	General
<i>Elymus canadensis</i>	Canada Wild Rye	9.34	General
<i>Eragrostis spectabilis</i>	Purple Love Grass	0.24	General
<i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i>	Rattlesnake Master	4.30	General
<i>Eupatorium altissimum</i>	Tall Boneset	0.64	General
<i>Euphorbia corollata</i>	Flowering Spurge	5.09	General
<i>Gaura biennis pitcheri</i>	Common Gaura	0.24	General
<i>Gentiana flavida</i>	Cream Gentian	1.52	General
<i>Gentiana puberulenta</i>	Prairie Gentian	1.03	General

<i>Geum triflorum</i>	Prairie Smoke	0.01	Dry
<i>Helenium autumnale</i>	Sneezeweed	0.25	Wet
<i>Helianthemum canadense</i>	Common Rockrose (Frostweed)	2.10	General
<i>Helianthus occidentalis</i>	Western Sunflower	5.38	General
<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>	False Sunflower	2.79	General
<i>Heuchera richardsonii grayana</i>	Alum Root	0.59	General
<i>Hieracium longipilum</i>	Hairy Hawkweed	0.25	Dry
<i>Houstonia longifolia</i>	Long-Leaved Bluets	0.05	Dry
<i>Isanthus brachiatus</i>	False Pennyroyal	0.05	Dry
<i>Juncus interior</i>	Inland Rush	5.92	General
<i>Koeleria cristata</i>	Prairie June Grass	7.58	General
<i>Kuhnia eupatorioides</i>	False Boneset	4.01	General
<i>Lechea tenuifolia</i>	Slender-Leaved Pinweed	2.10	General
<i>Lechea villosa</i>	Hairy Pinweed	0.34	General
<i>Lespedeza capitata</i>	Round-headed Bush Clover	8.07	General
<i>Lespedeza leptostachya</i>	Prairie Bush Clover	0.05	Dry
<i>Liatris aspera</i>	Rough Blazing Star	39.66	General
<i>Liatris cylindracea</i>	Dwarf Blazingstar	0.20	Dry
<i>Liatris pycnostachya</i>	Prairie Blazing Star, Tall Gayfeather	9.39	General
<i>Linum sulcatum</i>	Grooved Yellow Flax	0.05	Dry
<i>Lithospermum incisum</i>	Fringed Puccoon	0.01	Dry
<i>Lobelia spicata</i>	Pale-spiked Lobelia	0.10	General
<i>Lupinus perennis</i>	Wild Lupine	2.64	General
<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	Wild Bergamot	1.42	General
<i>Monarda punctata villicualis</i>	Horse Mint	0.59	General
<i>Napaea dioica</i>	Glade Mallow	0.30	Wet
<i>Oenothera clelandii</i> (<i>rhombipetala</i>)	Sand Evening Primrose	0.83	General
<i>Onosmodium hispidissimum</i>	Marbleseed	1.47	General
<i>Opuntia humifusa</i>	Prickly Pear Cactus	0.35	Dry
<i>Oxalis violacea</i>	Violet Wood Sorrel	0.34	General
<i>Panicum oligosanthes</i>	Scribner's Panic Grass	2.54	General
<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	Prairie Switch Grass	0.59	General
<i>Parthenium integrifolium</i>	Wild Quinine	18.97	General
<i>Paspalum ciliatifolium</i> <i>muhlenbergii</i>	Hairy Lens Grass	0.34	General
<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>	Foxglove Beard Tongue	1.27	General
<i>Penstemon hirsutus</i>	Hairy Beard tongue	1.42	General
<i>Petalostemum candidum</i>	White Prairie Clover	2.54	General
<i>Petalostemum purpurea</i>	Purple Prairie Clover	23.18	General
<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>	Ninebark	0.10	General
<i>Polygala incarnata</i>	Pink Milkwort	0.01	Dry
<i>Polygala polygama obtusata</i>	Purple Milkwort	0.30	Dry
<i>Polygala sanguinea</i>	Field Milkwort	0.05	Dry
<i>Polygonum tenue</i>	Slender Knotweed	0.10	Dry
<i>Polytaenia nuttallii</i>	Prairie Parsley	0.10	General
<i>Potentilla arguta</i>	Prairie Tall Cinquefoil	4.74	General

<i>Prenanthes aspera</i>	Rough White Lettuce	0.05	Dry
<i>Pseudognaphalium obtusifolium</i>	Sweet Everlasting	0.68	General
<i>Pycnanthemum tenuifolium</i>	Slender Mountain Mint	1.76	General
<i>Pycnanthemum virginianum</i>	Mountain mint	2.74	General
<i>Ratibida pinnata</i>	Yellow Coneflower	0.24	General
<i>Rosa carolina</i>	Pasture Rose	4.06	General
<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	Black-eyed Susan	1.22	General
<i>Rudbeckia subtomentosa</i>	Sweet Black Eyed Susan	1.15	Wet
<i>Salix humilis</i>	Prairie Willow	0.44	General
<i>Scrophularia lanceolata</i>	Early Figwort	0.54	General
<i>Senecio pauperculus</i>	Balsom Ragwort	0.49	General
<i>Silphium integrifolium</i>	Rosin Weed	2.93	General
<i>Silphium laciniatum</i>	Compass Plant	2.20	General
<i>Silphium perfoliatum</i>	Cup Plant	0.55	Wet
<i>Silphium terebinthinaceum</i>	Prairie Dock	1.12	General
<i>Sisyrinchium albidum</i>	Common Blue-eyed Grass	0.10	General
<i>Sleepy Catchfly</i>	<i>Silene antirrhina</i>	0.01	Dry
<i>Solidago grammifolia</i>	Grass-Leaved Goldenrod	7.34	General
<i>Solidago gymnospermoides</i>	Viscid Grass-leaved Goldenrod	0.75	Wet
<i>Solidago missouriensis</i>	Missouri Goldenrod	1.12	General
<i>Solidago nemoralis</i>	Old Field Goldenrod	5.92	General
<i>Solidago speciosa</i>	Showy Goldenrod	1.86	General
<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>	Prairie Dropseed (stripped)	4.11	General
<i>Stipa spartea</i>	Porcupine Grass	0.20	Dry
<i>Talinum rugospermum</i>	Sand Fameflower	0.10	Dry
<i>Tephrosia virginiana</i>	Goat's Rue	15.89	General
<i>Tradescantia ohiensis</i>	Common Spiderwort	11.98	General
<i>Triosteum aurantiacum</i>	Orange-fruited Horse Gentian (Wild Coffee)	3.37	General
<i>Verbena hastata</i>	Blue Vervain	0.15	Wet
<i>Verbena stricta</i>	Hoary vervain	3.96	General
<i>Verbena urticifolia</i>	White Vervain	2.10	General
<i>Veronicaastrum virginicum</i>	Culver's Root	2.15	General
<i>Viola pedata</i>	Birdsfoot Violet	0.20	Dry
<i>Viola pedatifida</i>	Prairie Violet	0.20	Dry
<i>Wulfenia bullii</i>	Kittentail	0.34	General
<i>Zizia aptera</i>	Heart-leaved Meadow Parsnip	2.69	General
<i>Zizia aurea</i>	Golden Alexander	2.49	General

Total seed weight 519.90
Total species count 135

Map:



Photos:



Alan Meier pulling the McCormick seeder using a UTV

Photo by Mary Meier



Mary Meier with the orange cones used for guiding the seeder

Photo by Alan Meier



Corn stubble on the ground (glove indicates size of the area included in the picture)

Photo by Alan Meier