

Ecotypic Seed Source Development in the Coastal Prairies Region

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Seed collections from remnant prairie sites within the Coastal Prairies and Marshes ecoregion are a major focus of the *Coastal Prairies Native Seed Project*. We made 175 seed collections of various native species of grasses and forbs throughout the region in 2018. Our focus is on species of interest for restoration identified by collaborating partners, seed industry contacts, and our regional technical committee.

Most seed collection efforts are seasonal and opportunistic. Collection sites typically are where major soil disturbances have not occurred and have limited manipulation of vegetation. While private property is a good source for collections, other areas including railroad rights-of-ways, roadside fence lines, and county roads provide some of the best collection opportunities.

Soil types are an important consideration for developing locally adapted native seed sources. Therefore, we selected evaluation sites for collections that would be representative of sandy and clay prairie sites, which are the predominate soils of the region. Data are being collected on second-year collections of little bluestem and knotroot bristlegrass. Once the evaluations are complete a decision should be made for possible seed increase of these species in 2020. In addition, we began new evaluation studies for collections of Indiangrass and silver bluestem [in summer 2019](#).

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