

Developing Native Plants for Louisiana Ecosystems

The Louisiana Native Plant Initiative



Golden Meadow Plant Materials Center

- Greenhouse seedling production
- Coastal ecotype evaluations of switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*), gulf cordgrass (*Spartina spartinae*), and Maidencane (*Panicum hemitomon*)
- Seed conditioning and storage



Ashy sunflower
Helianthus mollis

East Texas Plant Materials Center

- Seed increase fields of rough coneflower (*Rudbeckia grandiflora*), ashly sunflower (*Helianthus mollis*), and little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*)



Kansas gayfeather
Liatris pycnostachya

- Initial evaluations and seed increase of rattlesnake master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*), lance leaf blanketflower (*Gaillardia aestivallis*), gulf coast muhly (*Muhlenbergia capillaris*), shiny goldenrod (*Oligoneuron nitidum*), Kansas blazing Star (*Liatris pycnostachya*), and longspike tridens (*Tridens strictus*)
- seed processing and cleaning

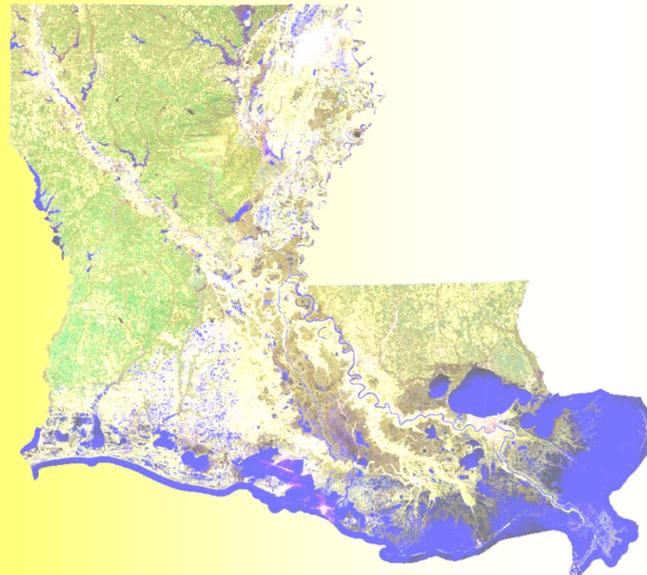
Partners working together to save Louisiana's Native Plant Heritage

Louisiana Native Plant Initiative

Locally-adapted native plant materials provide the best chances for success for restoration and revegetation projects. Across Louisiana the lack of adapted commercial seed sources for the restoration of critical habitats including coastal prairies and longleaf pine savannahs has caused limited success. The Louisiana Native Plant Initiative was established as a partnership effort to collect, preserve, increase, and study native plants in the state. Seeds and plants of native species developed by the partnership will be released to commercial growers for production, and eventual sale to the public.

Currently, LNPI is comprised of 22 federal, state, and non-governmental organization partners. Over the past six years five evaluation and production locations including the USDA-NRCS Plant Materials Centers at Galliano, LA (GMPMC) and Nacogdoches, TX (ETPMC), Nicholls State University Farm at Thibodaux, LA, McNeese State University Farm at Lake Charles, LA, and University of Louisiana at Lafayette - Center for Ecology and Environmental Technology (CEET) have been established and are working together to select and increase seeds and plants of Louisiana ecotypes.

Since its inception the LNPI partnership has collected over 60 individual species and over 400 individual collections of native plants from critical habitats within Louisiana. In the fall of 2010 the partnership plans on releasing its first group of Louisiana ecotypic selections to commercial growers as part of the effort to someday have adapted seed available for restoration and revegetation projects across the state.



USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
 USGS, National Wetland Research Center
 McNeese State University
 Nicholls State University
 University of Louisiana at Lafayette
 Barataria Terrebonne National Estuary Program
 Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry
 Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
 Coastal Plain Conservancy
 Louisiana Wildlife Federation
 The Nature Conservancy - Louisiana Chapter
 Louisiana State University Ag Center
 Southern University
 USDA, Forest Service, Kisatchie National Forest
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 Acadiana RC&D Council,
 Bayou Land RC&D Council,
 Imperial Calcasieu RC&D Council,
 Northeast Delta RC&D Council,
 Trailblazer RC&D Council,
 Twin Valley RC&D Council,
 Capital RC&D Council

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Big bluestem
Andropogon gerardii

- Initial evaluation of upland collections of big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*), Indiangrass (*Sorghastrum nutans*), switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*), rough coneflower (*Rudbeckia grandiflora*), ashly sunflower (*Helianthus mollis*), and eastern gamagrass (*Tripsacum dactyloides*)
- Initial and foundation seed increase



Texas coneflower
Rudbeckia texana



- Developing production and harvest protocols for species including rattlesnake master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*), woolly rose-mallow (*Hibiscus lasiocarpus*), and Texas coneflower (*Rudbeckia texana*)
- Screening herbicides for usage on native seed production fields
- Establishment of time of seeding and rate of seeding studies



Rattlesnake master
Eryngium yuccifolium