



What is "local ecotype"? Why does it matter?

Ideally, prairie restoration and reconstruction should use seed collected from local remnant prairies .

This helps to ensure the plant community is as close to the ecosystem native to a specific site as possible. Species adapt to local conditions, and a seed from the same species grown hundreds of miles away may not be well-suited for the Loess Hills.

This project will identify high-quality remnant prairie sites to harvest seed to be used for projects in the same landform and climate.

Learn more about local ecotype on Iowa Prairie Network's website:
<https://www.iowaprairienetwork.org>



A project of Golden Hills RC&D, in collaboration with several local partners:

- Pottawattamie Conservation
- Harrison County Conservation Board
- Iowa Prairie Network
- ...and more!

Contact Info

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GILCHRIST FOUNDATION
thegilchristfoundation.org

Prairie Seed Harvest



goldenhillsrcd.org/prairieseed

Tasks & Timeline

- At least monthly seed collection in spring, summer and fall 2019
- Each session will include a brief training for volunteers to learn about identifying plants that are ready to harvest and how to collect seed.
- Seed will be stored and used on-site in most cases, though volunteers may be able to take some seed home depending on each specific site's rules*
- Volunteers may assist with sowing the seed on reconstruction or restoration sites as needed.
- Please wear appropriate clothing and footwear for hiking on uneven terrain.

*seed collected on state or federal lands generally cannot leave the site. Always ask permission before harvesting seed for yourself!

About Prairies

Most of the Loess Hills landscape was covered in prairie prior to European settlement. Fire suppression, agriculture and urban development have eliminated or greatly reduced the quality of most remnant prairies. Prairies include some of the most biodiverse habitats in the world.

Less than 1/10th of 1% of Iowa's native prairies remain, and the majority of those remnants are located in the Loess Hills. Many partners--public, nonprofit, and private--are working to protect, restore, and reconstruct native prairie ecosystems.

We are looking for volunteers to assist with prairie seed collection. Join us at one or all of the training sessions at Hitchcock Nature Center and other natural areas.

Visit goldenhillsrcd.org/prairieseed to learn more and sign up!

