

NRCS Conservation and Innovation Grant-Virginia Native Seed Pilot Project

TIMELINE

Fall 2022

- Identify Wild Seed Sources And Collect

Winter 2022

- Process And Propagate Wild Seeds
- Recruit Farmers

Spring 2023

- Continue Propagation
- Host Workshops And Tours At Clifton Institute And VSU Randolph Farm
- Develop Outreach Program And Materials
- Prepare For 2nd Round Of Wild Seed Collection

Summer 2023

- Provide Technical Support To Farmers
- Host Workshops And Tours At Clifton Institute And VSU Randolph Farm
- Develop Outreach Program And Materials
- Prepare For 2nd Round Of Wild Seed Collection

Fall 2023

- Plant Seedlings On Farmer's Land And Provide Technical Growing Support
- Harvest Seeds While Measuring Yields And Record Harvesting Practices.
- Collect Seeds From The Wild

Winter 2023

- Process And Propagate Wild Collected Seeds
- Review Past Year For Lessons Learned
- Begin Best Practices Manual

Spring 2024

- Plant Seedlings

Summer 2024

- Provide Technical Assistance To Farmers
- Hold Workshops And Demonstrations On Native Planting Techniques

Fall 2024 - End of Grant Cycle

- Harvest And Ship Seeds To Ernst Conservation Seeds
- Field Day At Clifton Institute And Randolph Farms
- Complete Best Practices Manual
- Complete Yield Measurements And Crop Budgets

GOALS AND METHODS

Advance pollinator habitat restoration in Virginia, by increasing the availability of Virginia ecotype Native Seed. The [project](#) is focused on creating a network of local producers that can collectively serve as a commercial source of Virginia-ecotype native seeds for large-scale revegetation and restoration projects. The grant funding will support a native seed project coordinator position at the Clifton Institute to lead these efforts, as well the development of native plant demonstration plots at Virginia State University Randolph Farms.

SHORT TERM OUTCOMES

- Foster knowledge transfer from native seed producers in other states to participating EQIP producers in Virginia.
- Demonstrate how to grow and market Virginia-ecotype native seeds.
- Adapt and transfer conservation technologies, management, practices, approaches and incentives for growing Virginia native plants.
- Build on an existing farm program to create a network of farmers with access to technical assistance for growing native species.

LONG TERM OUTCOMES

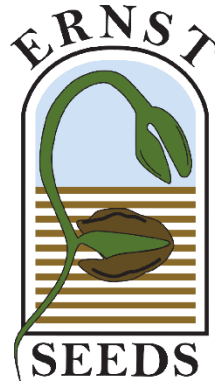
- Increase the awareness of the benefits of Virginia native seeds for development and restoration projects.
- Increase supply of Virginia-ecotype native seeds for restoration.
- Creation of an independent and sustainable native seed industry in Virginia.
- Increase pollinator habitat and pollinator ecosystem services in Virginia.

DELIVERABLES

- Demonstration sites at VSU and Clifton Institute, including Pollinator-Smart planting at VSU Randolph Farm solar array.
- Best management practices manual for commercially growing native plants in Virginia.
- Development of financial planning tools to grow native species.



Virginia Native Seed Pilot Project Partners



Contact Information

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