

Introduction to Prairie Restoration and Methodology

Why restore prairie?

Some scientific journals that specifically encompass restoration:

Restoration and Management Notes

Restoration Ecology

Restoration methodology

1. Planning:

- a. site size
- b. topography
- c. soils
- d. proximity to existing environments
- e. existing flora and fauna
- f. importing flora and fauna
- g. rationale

2. Site preparation

- a. soil disturbance
May vary depending upon pre-existing vegetation and current soil condition.
 - plow
 - burn
 - mow
 - soil packing
 - none
- b. weed elimination
 - herbicide or not?
 - exposing weed seed bank
- c. cover crops

3. obtaining seed

a. Reasons for locally obtaining seed:

b. native seed collection by hand
locality, permission

c. mechanical harvesting

d. commercial dealers

4. Planting

a. timing—Fall vs. Spring

b. methods:

Drill seeding/Interseeding

Broadcast seeding—mechanical vs. hand

Seedling planting

c. mulching

Managing the restored prairie

Abiotic disturbances:

Burning

Mowing

Biotic disturbances:

Grazing

Burrowing

Other