

ESTABLISHING TALLGRASS PRAIRIE
IN EASTERN NORTH DAKOTA AND WESTERN MINNESOTA

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By

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ABSTRACT

Larson, Wayne Douglas, M.S., Program of Natural Resource Management, Department of Animal and Range Sciences, College of Agriculture, North Dakota State University, April 1999. Establishing Tallgrass Prairie in Eastern North Dakota and Western Minnesota. Major Professor: Dr. William T. Barker.

Tallgrass Prairies have largely been destroyed by agriculture. Attempts are now being made to restore areas that were originally Tallgrass Prairie. A description of several techniques that have had some degree of success in prairie re-establishment is presented. Planning, site preparation, seed selection and sources, planting, weed control, and post-planting management are the steps involved in a successful restoration.

The importance of seed source is outlined, and stress is placed on using local seed sources to ensure adapted ecotypes will be planted. Harvest sites that are within 25 miles (40 kilometers) of planting sites have demonstrated great success in eastern Minnesota. Snow seeding, an innovative seeding technique used by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is presented along with other successful establishment techniques.

Post-planting management techniques are an important part of the revegetation process. Burning and mowing are techniques that have been successful in western Minnesota.