

Native local ecotype used in prairie restoration.

Martin Soil and Water Conservation District continues to work on a grant received in 2015 from the Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund, recommended by the Legislative Citizens Commission on Minnesota Resources. The project goals for this grant is to collect and propagate native rare uncommon and at risk



local source ecotype plant species for habitat restoration projects. A local grower is being utilized for seed collection, propagation, growing and transplanting these at risk species. Project work continues on one site having a prairie restored using local source ecotype that was purchased by the Fox Lake Conservation League in

2016. This parcel is one hundred thirty nine acres of marginal agricultural farm land that will have multiple wetlands restored and planted to native prairie. This parcel is located in Elm Creek Township section 23, bordering an existing Minnesota Department of Natural Resource Wildlife Management Area named Caron. With this addition, the wildlife management area will equal five hundred seventy one acres. Many rare uncommon species were transplanted or seeded on this parcel. Martin County West High School students, the wrestling club, and two interns through the Minnesota Valley Action Council spent many hours transplanting local source ecotype. This was an educational experience about the importance of having a diverse habitat on a prairie. Thousands of plants grown from local ecotype have been transplanted on this one site. After the restorations are complete this parcel will be managed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and will be open to the public for recreational enjoyment.