ROADSIDES
WHERE GRASSLANDS AND POLLINATORS MEET
POLLINATORS PREFER GRASSLAND HABITATS

2006 POLLINATOR STAMPS
GRASSLANDS EXIST IN ALL STATES

meadows, balds, glades, coastal prairies, desert grasslands, palouse, short grass prairies.....
GRASSLANDS
FIT ROADSIDES

- FULL SUN
- NO IRRIGATION
- NO FERTILIZER
- POOR SOILS

VISIBILITY
SAFETY
WATER QUALITY
EROSION CONTROL
REDUCED MOWING
WILDLIFE HABITAT
BIODIVERSITY
NATURAL BEAUTY
EROSION CONTROL & REDUCED RUNOFF

Grassland compared to crownvetch
ECOREGIONS WITH GRASSLANDS

Figure 1. Regional vegetation differences. From Gleason and Cronquist (1964).
TALLGRASS PRAIRIES

3 PRAIRIE REGIONS WITH REMNANTS:

• LAKE PLAINS,
• CENTRAL TILL PLAIN
• SOUTHERN TILL PLAINS

www.ohio-prairie.org
NOW AN E-BOOK

50 STATES HOW TOS:

• Seed mixes
• I R V M
• Reduced mowing
• Weed control
• Training tips

www.environment.fhwa.dot.gov/
ROADSIDE-WILDFLOWER HISTORY

1941-1966

Roadside Development

1/4 of 1% Wildflower Requirement

1987
BOB TATMAN
Ohio Department Of Transportation

- 1990S PLANTED WILDFLOWERS
- ODOT BEGAN NATIVE SEED PRODUCTION

Wildseed Farms, TX
1980s MnDOT
WILDFLOWER PROGRAM

• Task Force
  Remnants
• 350A. / I-35
• Seed mixes
ONE SIZE DOES NOT FIT ALL

SEED MIXES NEED TO BE:

• SITE SPECIFIC

• NATIVE TO ECOREGION

HIGHWAY MIX #5
1993

FHWA/USDOT

WILDFLOWER PROGRAM

- TECHNICAL TRANSFER
- POLICY SUPPORT
- APPLIED RESEARCH

Flowers & Grasses
#1... TECHNICAL TRANSFER
INTEGRATED VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

1999

2007

2015
#2...POLICY SUPPORT

1. WILDFLOWER BANKING
2. TERP QUALIFICATION
3. FEDERAL-AID ELIGIBILITY
4. POLLINATOR MOU
#3…APPLIED RESEARCH

1. AFFORDABLE WASHER
2. LOCAL ECOTYPE STUDY
3. AFFORDABLE NATIVE SOD
4. BUTTERFLY HABITAT
WHAT DOTS CAN DO FOR POLLINATORS

1. PLANT HABITAT
2. SAVE EXISTING REMNANTS
3. REDUCE MOWING
4. INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS

Nearly one third of Minnesota was once a sea of waving grasses, dotted with islands of blooming wildflowers; this was our native prairie. Unfortunately, now less than 1% of it is left. Much of the native prairie that remains today is found in areas that were unsuitable for agriculture, such as cemeteries, steep bluffs, and along rights-of-way. Rights-of-way have been recognized historically as refuges for native vegetation communities. This is particularly true of shared highway and railroad rights-of-way. Back in the 1900's & 1910's when railroads were first built, they transected the virgin tallgrass prairie of the upper Midwest. After tracks were laid down the surrounding prairie vegetation re-established back into the railroad right-of-ways that were disturbed by construction. Subsequently, many prairie flowers followed these early transportation corridors and were built out alongside railroad tracks. Eventually these...
PROJECT - 2013

District 9 Pollinator Planting
• Visible location, plenty of floral resources for pollinators, wide ROW,

BENEFITS: NATURAL BEAUTY, LESS MAINTENANCE COSTS, CROPS, WILDLIFE HABITAT, STEWARDSHIP, WATER QUALITY, LESS CARBON EMISSIONS.
WISDOT
1970’S PLANTING
REDUCED MOWING
KARNER BLUE PARTNERSHIP
IOWA DOT

GRASSLAND STATE

85 COUNTIES

ECOTYPE SOURCED SEED

CREATED IRVM

Neil Smith Refuge, IA
MnDOT

1985 MOWING LAW

PROTECTED REMNANTS

5000 ACRES IN 10 YRS

+ 4 MILKWEEDS TO MIXES

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS
PLANTING SINCE 1965
REDUCED MOWING
SAVED REMNANTS
CALTRANS

- Grant Challenge
- Found 19 remnants
- Biological Management Areas
MoDOT

2013 STATE FAIR
POLLINATOR GARDEN
WITH XERCES & ZOO

PRAIRIE PASSAGE
6-STATE PARTNERSHIP
MONARCH NEWS 2014

- February, 2014 LA Times Presidents Nieto/Obama
- June 20, 2014 E.M. on Pollinators
- March, 2015 125 groups to Obama re: neononicotinoids
- June, 2015 USFWS promises $$M to I-35 corridor
FEDERAL-AID HIGHWAY SYSTEM

12-17 million acres of conservation opportunity