

Mark Twain National Forest

Native Plant Material Program



Direction, Policy

FSM 2070

-  Ensure genetically appropriate native plant materials
-  Restrict use of persistent, non-native, non-invasive plant materials
-  Select non-native plants as interim provided they will not hybridize or permanently displace native species
-  Select genetically appropriate plant materials based on site characteristics and ecological setting
-  Ensure development, review and/or approval of revegetation, rehabilitation and restoration, including species selection, genetic heritage, growth stage and site preparation
-  Cooperating and coordinate with others in the development of native plant materials and supplies
-  Anticipated plant material needs for emergency and planned revegetation

MTNF Plan Direction

2005 Land and Resource
Management Plan

(Forest Plan, p. 2-2 & 2-3 I...) Revegetate soils disturbed by National Forest management activities by allowing growth of existing on-site vegetation where possible and desirable.

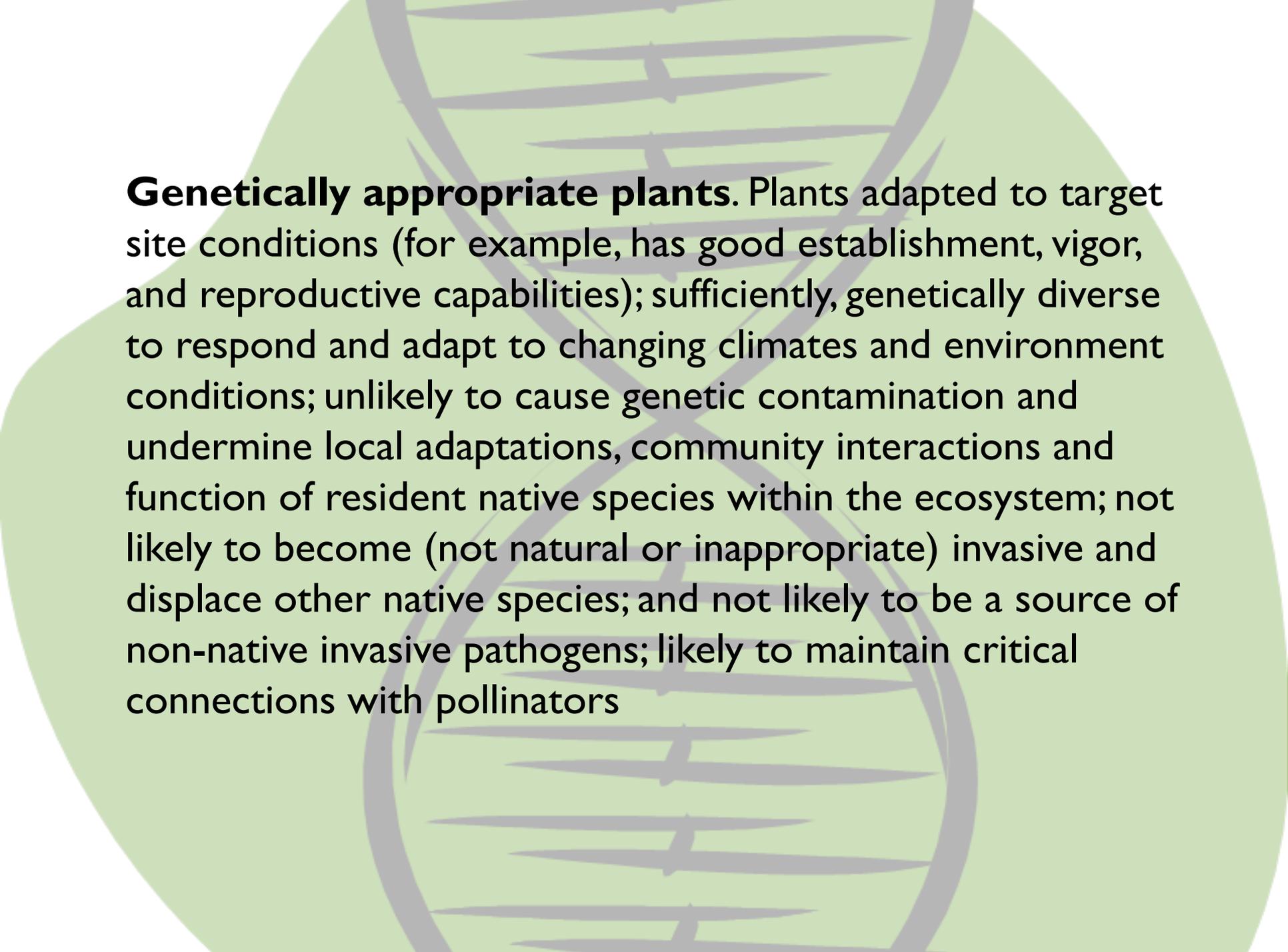
Where on-site vegetation is not desirable, or not likely to quickly revegetate the site, use one or more of the following methods:

- Fertilize to encourage growth of desirable on-site vegetation;
- Apply local surrounding organic mulch (i.e., leaf litter and pine needles) or covering with sterile weed-free straw to promote reestablishment of native vegetation;
- Reseed or replant with native species appropriate to the site or sterile annuals (wheat, rye, etc.) and fertilizing if necessary

(Forest Plan, p 2-22) Landscaping projects in recreation areas and administrative facilities may use a wide variety of plant materials, including non-native species (providing these are not invasive species), although the use of native plants is preferred .

(Forest Plan, p 2-29) When shortleaf pine seeding or planting is prescribed, use genetically improved seed or stock developed from native Mark Twain National Forest superior trees.

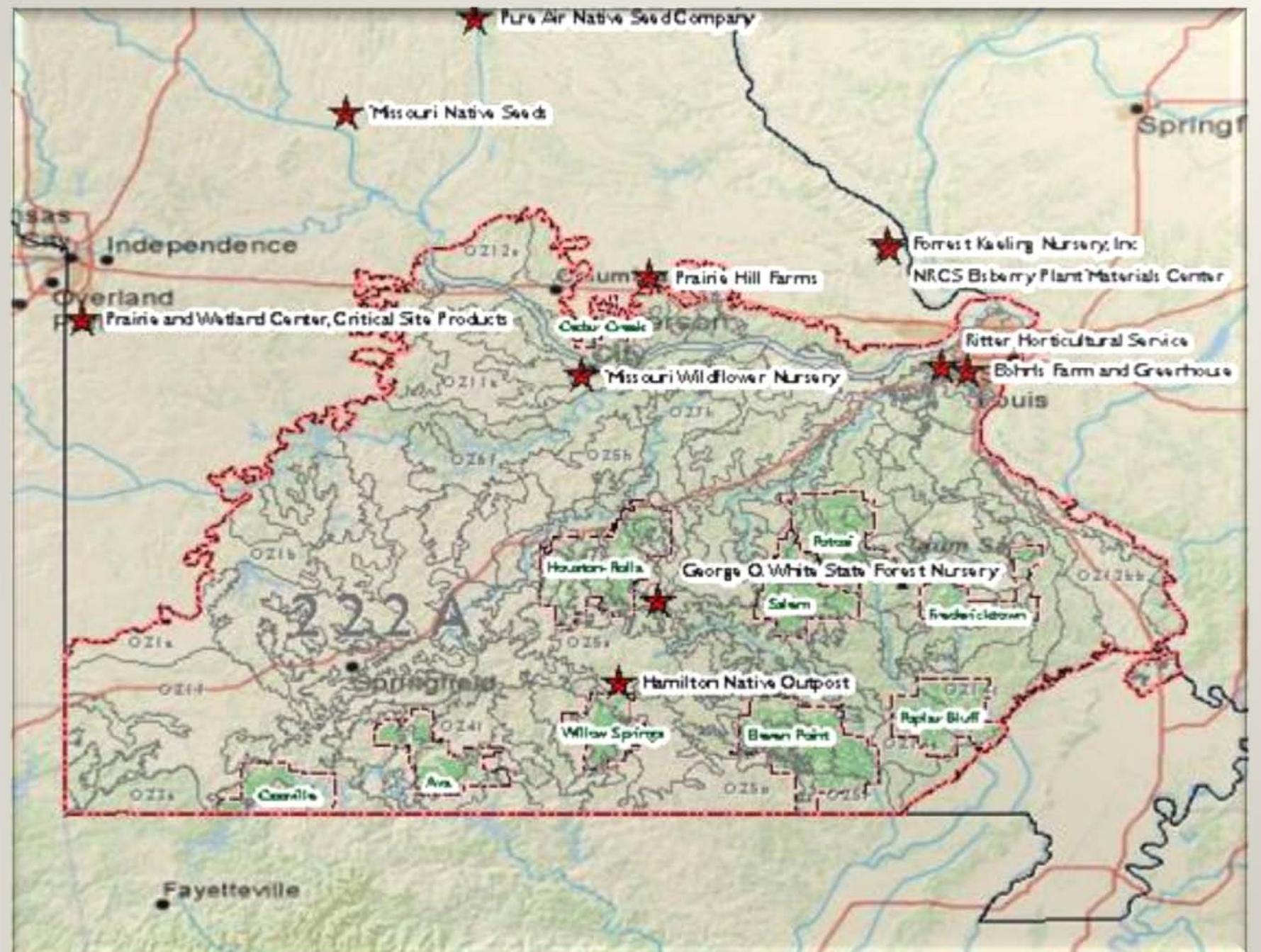
(Forest Plan, p 3-4) When seeding or planting vegetation (MA 1.1, 1.2) other than shortleaf pine is prescribed for restoration, use seed or plant materials from local sources unless a local source is not available or cannot be developed. If a local seed source is not available, a botanist or ecologist must approve the seed source.



Genetically appropriate plants. Plants adapted to target site conditions (for example, has good establishment, vigor, and reproductive capabilities); sufficiently, genetically diverse to respond and adapt to changing climates and environment conditions; unlikely to cause genetic contamination and undermine local adaptations, community interactions and function of resident native species within the ecosystem; not likely to become (not natural or inappropriate) invasive and displace other native species; and not likely to be a source of non-native invasive pathogens; likely to maintain critical connections with pollinators

Sources of Native Plant Material for the MTNF





Missouri Grow Native Program

- A joint program of the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) and the Missouri Department of Agriculture (MDA), the Grow Native! program helps protect and restore our state's biodiversity by increasing conservation awareness of native plants and their effective use. By building partnerships among private industry, non-profit organizations, government agencies and landowners, Grow Native! aims to significantly increase the demand for and use of native plants on all landscapes.
- Within the Grow Native! partnership, MDC provides individuals, organizations, schools and government agencies with information, education and training materials that help them discover and use native plants. MDA houses Grow Native's marketing and business development services for member businesses that supply native plants, seeds and related services such as design, installation and maintenance. Together, MDC's and MDA's efforts make it easy for everyone to discover, buy and successfully use Missouri source native plants on any landscape.



Why are seed sources important?



Unintended introduction of Caucasian bluestem from a unverified seed source has resulted in a 1 acre infestation in a native glade community on the Ava Unit.

Capable of moving from disturbed roadsides and pastures to high quality prairie and glade habitats, and are very difficult to eradicate once established. If left uncontrolled, they have the potential to completely take over native grasslands. NRCS has discontinued producing it due to its invasiveness.



Who is using Native Plant Material?

- Wildlife
 - Bottomland hardwood restoration
 - Restoration of old food plot (conversion to native spp.)
 - Riparian restoration habitat
 - Native pollinator gardens
- Range
 - Conversion of fescue pastures to warm season grasses
- Recreation
 - Native tree planting in developed recreation areas
- Timber
 - Short leaf pine restoration

MTNF Native Plant and Pollinator Gardens



Popular Bluff Ranger District

Garden establish in 2008.
Over 28 native plant species.
Native Plant Source: Missouri
Wildflower Nursery



Eleven Point Ranger District

Garden establish in 2009.
Over 28 native plant species.
Native Plant Source: Hamilton
Native Outpost



Potosi Ranger District

Garden establish in 2010.
Over 30 native plant species.
Native Plant Source: Missouri
Wildflower Nursery

Other uses of Native Plant Materials:

- In the last five years, over 2,176 acres of pine seedlings from Mark Twain superior trees.
- Since 2005 the MT has planted native hardwood seedling on 155 acres to improve wildlife habitat.
- In the last three years, approximately 151 acres were planted in native grasses and forbs
- In the last five years, approximately \$45,000 was spent on native plant materials.

Partnerships

The MT is currently working on a partnership with Lincoln University Native Plants Program to collect seed and propagate native plant species at the Universities facilities for use in glade and woodland restoration projects and native/pollinator gardens

