

The Importance of Prairies, By Donovan Burchell

A prairie is an open stretch of grass, herbs, and other small plant life with few or no trees. Prairies in North America extend from Central Texas to Southern Saskatchewan (Canada). *Though they can be found all over the world, North American prairies are unique, and a part of our natural heritage. Sadly, many prairie ecosystems have been converted into farms and industrial, urban, and suburban areas.* Only one percent of our native prairies are left unspoiled. Even now, development and climate change threaten these already endangered habitats.

Hundreds of species of grasses, wildflowers, butterflies, birds, and other plants and animals make up these rich ecosystems. Many of these species are rare, or close to extinction. There are several well-known benefits to having preserved prairies. *They provide habitat for thousands of different, diverse forms of life and act as watersheds, keeping the land fertile. They also provide a natural source of food and medicine.* But there is so much more to what is being lost, and we may never know all the benefits. Natural diversity is simply beautiful. It makes the world a more interesting place, and though some may not notice it when it is there, it becomes quite obvious once it is gone.

A sample list of plants you could grow in your plot:

milkweed	common plectritus
riverside lupine	delphinium
wooly sunflower	goldenrod

To Become Involved In The Backyard Seed Project:

Contact: Liza Kachko, Coordinator
liza@walamarestoration.org
541-484-3939

Please check out www.walamarestoration.org
to find out more about the Whilamut Natural
Area Butterfly Meadow Project!!



Attention Community Members! Join the Backyard Seed Project!



Do you know that only 1% of native prairie ecosystems exist in North America? In the Willamette Valley alone, less than 1/10th of 1% exist!!!!

- 1. Would you like to have a part in helping restore a prairie ecosystem?**
- 2. Do you have a small, sunny spot in your backyard?**
- 3. Do you want to grow native wildflowers in your backyard?**



Together, we can bring back native plant diversity by growing out native seeds!!! Open this guide to read more about how to participate.....



This is a publication produced by The Network Charter School Permaculture Class and Walama Restoration Project, a local non-profit in Eugene.

*The Whilamut Natural Area Butterfly Meadow
The History of a Native Prairie in Eugene*

For the past 3 years, the Network Charter School Permaculture Class has been working closely with Walama Restoration Project to create a native prairie in Whilamut Natural Area. The prairie, which is located across from the Nearby Nature Park Host, currently has more than 50 species of plants that attract native insect pollinators. *Students have propagated plants from seed, helped build raised beds to grow native plants, weeded out invasive weeds for endless hours at the prairie, and planted more than 2,000 grasses and wildflowers.* The prairie is expanding every year, and now we are looking for more people to join us in growing out pollinator-friendly native wildflowers.

What Can You Do To Participate??? Grow Out Native Plants!

We are looking for households in Eugene to devote a minimum of 3 square feet in their yard for planting native seeds. The seeds are collected by Walama in the summer, and donated to each household, along with detailed descriptions of the plants, instructions, and a care guide.

What Will Happen to the Plants You Grow?

The seeds will be cold-stratified, sown in January, and grown to full maturity, meaning, until they produce seeds. Depending on what species you grow, this can be anytime between late spring and mid-summer. The seeds will then be collected by you, with the help of Walama staff. In the following fall, Network Charter School students and Walama will clean the seeds and sow them into flats at the Walama native plant nursery or directly sow them into the ground at the Whilamut Natural Area Butterfly Meadow.

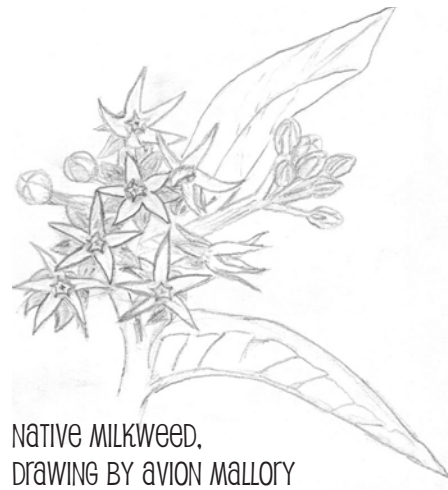
What Will You Receive In Return For Growing Seeds?

- A brochure on the project providing detailed information on the project, and an in-depth care guide with year-round support and postcard updates from Walama staff botanists.
- A unique opportunity to witness and experience the full growth cycle of native wildflowers in your own backyard!

Please turn to the back of this flyer to see a list of plants.....

How Does Growing Out Native Seeds Benefit the Community in Eugene? By Blake Phetteplace

It is keeping people busy in a good way. It is giving back to the community. It is teaching to see things, like plants, grow instead of buying things. All in all, it is involving people who seek to better the community and better the environment.



NATIVE MILKWEED.
DRAWING BY AVION MALLORY

My Experience Working at the Whilamut Natural Area Butterfly Meadow, By Cameron Hanner

I liked doing the work. It was active and fun. I learned a lot about native and non-native plants. It is fun to watch all the nature like birds, butterflies, and other insects. I also liked learning how to tarp the grass with cardboard and leaf mulch, and how that can kill invasive grass and other weeds.



Permaculture class plants native wildflowers

The Role of Invasive Species and Prairie Ecosystems, By Christian Sleeper

The spread of invasive species is one of the most serious global environmental changes underway. Invasion is second only to direct habitat loss in reducing and eliminating native biodiversity. Not only do exotic invasive species occupy space needed by native plants, but when native plant species are locally replaced, native insects, invertebrates, fungi, and other species that specifically depend on those habitats may also disappear.



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