

**FEDERALLY ENDANGERED LEAFY PRAIRIE CLOVER (*DALEA FOLIOSA*) RECOVERY AT  
MIDEWIN NATIONAL TALLGRASS PRAIRIE, ILLINOIS.**

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*Abstract:* Leafy prairie-clover (*Dalea foliosa*) is a Federally Endangered plant restricted to dolomite prairies in northern Illinois and limestone glades in Tennessee and Alabama. Historically, many populations have been extirpated by agricultural conversion, industrial development, and rock quarrying. The surviving populations and their habitats are threatened by woody encroachment, non-native invasive plants, hydrological change, recreational activities, and herbivory by deer and other animals. In Illinois, only six natural populations survive, one of which is on Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. Recovery of leafy prairie clover requires enhancement of existing populations and establishment of new populations in suitable habitat and at historic localities. In 2006, Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie began working with partners (US Fish and Wildlife Service, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Forest Preserve District of Kane County, and Forest Preserve District of Will County) to propagate leafy prairie-clover for recovery efforts, using local populations as seed sources. Since 2008, Midewin has produced over 3000 seedlings for planting at nine sites. Over 400 seedlings have been planted on Midewin, both to enhance the existing natural population and to provide seed for further recovery efforts.