

## **INTERSEEDING PRAIRIE FORBS INTO NATIVE GRASS STANDS**

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*Abstract:* Interseeding native forbs into reconstructed grasslands could restore plant species diversity and improve wildlife habitat. However, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources managers report having limited experience with interseeding, and poor success with a few early attempts. Survival of forbs interseeded directly into existing vegetation may be enhanced by management treatments that reduce competition from established grasses. In 2009 we began a study to investigate the effects of 2 mowing and 2 herbicide treatments on diversity and abundance of forbs interseeded into established grasslands in southern Minnesota. We selected 17 study sites, each  $\geq 4$  ha and characterized by similar soils and a relatively uniform stand of forb-deficient native grass. We applied 2 mowing treatments (once or twice per season) and 2 grass-selective herbicide treatments (high and low rate) during the 2010 growing season while interseeded forbs were becoming established. In January of 2009 a pilot study site was interseeded and the proposed management treatments conducted the following summer. Vegetation from the pilot site was monitored during the summer of 2009 and 2010 and the results presented here.