

Growing Ozark Native Plants High Tunnel Pilot Program

Program Offered September 2019 - September 2021



SUMMARY

Do you have experience in horticulture and growing native plants? The Alliance, in partnership with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, is coordinating a pilot program for the Beaver Lake watershed area to increase the production of native plant materials for the region. The purpose of the High Tunnel Pilot Program is to financially assist twenty private landowners and land managers in the Beaver Lake watershed area with the installation of a high tunnel for native-plant production on your property. This program also helps producers obtain native plant seeds and stock to start growing containerized plants.



Native plant materials support regional ecological restoration projects, home gardens, low-impact development projects, indigenous agriculture, and roadside wildlife plantings, all of which promote our region's exceptional biological diversity and help improve water quality. Regional production of local-genotype plant species is also needed to help meet the ever-growing demands for conservation and restoration projects within the Ozark Highlands and Boston Mountain ecoregions of Northwest Arkansas.

Program Details

The Beaver Watershed Alliance will be accepting applications and setting up site visits with interested landowners. After your application is approved, the Alliance will assist landowners with the purchase and installation of a high tunnel system and "starting kit" of native plant materials. Through this pilot program, participants receive a reimbursement on the cost of high tunnel system and native plant starter kit up to a \$4,000 maximum.

Interested participants will also be required to complete four educational trainings about the program. Details outlined in application.

Eligibility: Landowners in the Beaver Lake Watershed

To apply, please contact the Beaver Watershed Alliance.

Application Window: April 1, 2020 — June 30, 2020

Program Coordinator

Nate Weston

479-750-8007

nate@beaverwatershedalliance.org

Potential Native Plant Materials

- Bareroot seedlings
- Containerized plants
- Leaf/stem vegetables
- Fruit and tubers
- Bulk seeds and nuts
- Ornamentals
- Roots/tubers
- Cuttings
- Wetland plants

Native plant roots have an important role in our ecosystem and watershed. Historically, the Ozarks landscape consisted of tallgrass prairie, forests and glades of native plants with extensive root systems that allowed water to percolate into the ground/soils and recharge groundwater, added organic matter to the soil, and created pore space to clay soils.



This program is funded in partnership with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, through the Conservation Innovation Grant program.