

Department of Biological Sciences

600 Lincoln Avenue Charleston, Illinois 61920-3099

Office: (217) 581-3126 Fax: (217) 581-7141

November 14, 2007

Mr. Bob Szafoni Illinois Department of Natural Resources 1660 West Polk Avenue Charleston, IL 61920

RE: Wildlife Preservation Fund Grant #07-006W Increasing Gardener Familiarity with Illinois-adapted Native Plants to Use in Landscaping

Dear Mr. Szafoni:

We have enclosed a copy of the published press release (attachment A) and our final report for the Wildlife Preservation Fund Grant #07-006W. The objective of this grant was to increase gardener familiarity with Illinois-adapted native plants that are suitable for use in landscaping. We stated in the proposal that we would increase gardener familiarity in three ways: 1) demonstration gardens, 2) poster designs, and 3) prototype of a logo/label to identify plants as Illinois-adapted natives.

Demonstration Gardens at Eastern Illinois University

We planted additional species in a native prairie plant demonstration garden at Eastern Illinois University, which we started in the summer of 2005. The garden now contains approximately 130 species of native prairie plants. We developed a brochure (attachment B) for the prairie garden that features 40 of the species in the garden. The cover of the brochure features a picture of a portion of this garden. We also planted a native woodland plant garden and began to develop a brochure featuring 40 of the species in that garden. Preliminary work began on a native wetland plant garden.

Demonstration Gardens for Schools

We worked with 5 schools to develop native prairie plant gardens. See attachment C, which lists the school names, locations and contact people (contact information for the EIU gardens also is included). The original proposal stated that we would provide 20 representing 20 different species (attachment D). A handout that included cultural

information (attachment E) for the plants was provided, along with a binder of information about using native plants for landscaping. We also developed and supplied each school with one printed and laminated set of garden signs (attachment F) to place by each plant and a CD containing an electronic copy of the signs, so that they could replace the signs as needed. The 4 inch by 6 inch color signs include information such as cultural guidelines, a picture of the plant in flower, bloom time and Illinois distribution information. All of the school representatives were enthusiastic and excited about starting their prairie plant garden. The representatives from Riddle Elementary placed information about their garden on their website (http://www.riddletrees.com/RESCUEArborPrairiePlots.html).

Demonstration Gardens for Master Gardeners

We proposed to work with 7-8 groups of Master Gardeners and provide each group with 20 plants of 7 – 10 species. Master Gardener groups representing 42 counties in Illinois (attachment G) responded to our initial request for groups who were interested in establishing or adding to a native prairie plant garden. We distributed plants and supportive materials to 16 different Master Gardener groups (these 16 groups are highlighted on attachment G) representing 21 counties in Illinois. The counties ranged from Jo Daviess in the far northwestern portion of Illinois to St. Clair in the southwestern portion of Illinois, and from Mercer and Warren on the western edge to Vermilion and Edgar on the eastern border of Illinois. We provided each Master Gardener group with 35 individual plants representing 21 different species (attachment H). Each group also received a cultural information sheet (attachment E), a binder of information about landscaping with native plants, and an electronic copy of the signs for the species of native plants that we had provided.

Additional Demonstration Gardens

We had extra plants remaining after giving plants to the schools and Master Gardener groups, so we gave some to the City of Charleston, IL, for use in a city park where a native plant garden was being established. Other plants went to Paul Switzer of the Biological Sciences Department at Eastern Illinois University, for use in a habitat restoration project at the Jewelwing Nature Preserve located near Charleston, IL at the end of road 2080E in Coles County. This site is open to the public.

Poster Designs

Another objective for this grant was to design four posters that demonstrate the horticultural traits of native plants. The four topics featured on the posters are "wildlife appeal" (attachment I), "various habitats" (attachment J), "growth habits" (attachment K)

and "four season appeal" (attachment L). These are draft copies of the posters. Some images may be substituted and all plant names will be added before the final versions are printed and distributed.

Prototype for a Logo/Label

The final objective was to design 3 – 5 prototypes for a logo/label that could be used to identify Illinois adapted native plants. We asked the Illinois Invasive Plant Species Council to be involved with the selection and endorsement of this logo/label. We discussed the idea at the Council's March 8, 2007 and June 13, 2007 meetings. Initially we had ten logo designs which were narrowed to three designs for final consideration. At the October 16, 2007 meeting of the Council it was decided that we would work with the Green Industry members of the Council to facilitate the implementation of this logo statewide. Copies of the three selected logos/labels are included with this report as attachments M, N and O.

Some of the materials such as the brochures for the EIU native plant gardens, the garden signs for native plants and the posters produced for this grant have been or will be placed on a website (www.eiu.edu/~n_plants) that we developed. The website's focus is using native plants in landscaping.

We enclosed three hard copies and an electronic copy of our report for grant #07-006W. The Payment Request Certification Form will be forwarded separately by our Business Office.

We look forward to working on future projects in conjunction with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Thank you for support of this project.

Sincerely,

Janice M. Coons and Nancy E. Coutant

Professor of Botany and Instructor of Botany

217-581-6243 and 217-581-6609

jcoons@eiu.edu and necoutant@eiu.edu

Enclosures (4)

cc: Bob Chesnut

Illinois Department of Natural Resources awards \$16,000 in grants to 10 Eastern faculty members

CHARLESTON — The Illinois Department of Natural Resources has awarded grants worth more than \$16,000 to 10 Eastern Illinois University biological sciences faculty members for scientific research.

Janice Coons and Nancy Coutant received a pair of \$2,000 grants for "Workshops on Using Illinois-adapted Native Plants in Landscaping for Gardeners, Nurseries and Educational Institutions" and "Increasing Gardener Familiarity with Illinois-adapted Native Plants to Use in Landscaping."

According to Coutant, the goal of the "Workshops" project is to increase the use of Illinois-adapted native plants

in landscaping.

"To achieve this goal," she said, "we will give workshops to gardening groups, retail nurseries and educational institutions throughout Illinois. The workshops will demonstrate the many horticultural, environmental and educational advantages to using Illinois native plants to landscape commercial and/or private sites."

With funding from their second grant, Coons and Coutant will develop a series of poster designs that will highlight important horticultural traits of Illinois-adapted

native plants.

This grant also will allow Coons and Coutant to assist several central Illinois schools in developing native

plant gardens.

Robert "Bud" Fischer will use \$2,000 of the grant money for his project, "The Effect of Extreme Hydrologic Events on Macroinvertebrate Community Structure." According to Fischer, little research has focused on the effects of variable flow rates from dams on the invertebrates and the recolonization rates of macroinvertebrates after a significant flow. This study will investigate the effect of dam activity on the macroinvertebrate community on the Sangamon River west of Decatur.

Andrew Methven has earmarked \$1,063 of the grant money for his project, "Macrofungi Associated with Tree Windfall in Old Growth Prairie Groves."

This study investigated macrofungi in Champaign

County.

"These woods are remnants of a larger, pre-settlement prairie grove, and are now encircled by houses, fragmented forests, prairie and agricultural land,." Methven said.

In his study, he hopes to determine how macrofungi species composition changes on woody substrates of different species, how macrofungi production varies within and between years, how macrofungi species composition and species richness changes within and between years,

and how tree windfalls perturb macrofungi species composition and richness patterns.

Stephen Mullin plans to use \$2,000 of the grant money for his project, "Colonization of Newly Constructed Wetlands by an Amphibian Communi-

ty."

According to Mullin, "The Natural Heritage Division of IDNR developed a management plan for Wildcat Hollow State Habitat Area that includes increasing the amount of wetland habitat available for pond-breeding amphibian species. There is now a unique opportunity to study the rates of colonization of these ponds, and the species composition of the amphibian community that uses the ponds."

Data gathered, Mullin said, will also provide further insight to the population status and ecology of amphibian species in need of conservation in Illinois, and test a mechanism to increase amphibian species diversity in Illinois wetlands and similar habitats throughout the

Midwest.

Other EIU grant recipients and their projects include:

Zhiwei Liu and Gordon Tucker, \$2,000 for "Is Antistrophus silphii Endangered? Preliminary Field Survey of a Rare Gall Wasp in Illinois." Antistrophus silphii is a gall wasps species that cause cancerous tissue growth on terminal buds of the cup plant (Silphium perfoliatum). Although the species is thought rare in Illinois, recent field work has found a local population of the species, which appears to fluctuate dramatically from year to year. A statewide survey will be conducted to find out whether the species is actually rare and deserving of an appropriate protection status

■ Eric Bollinger and Terri Thompson (graduate student), \$2,000 for "Compariso of Avian Nest Success Amon Linear Wooded Habitats in a Agriculturally Fragmented Landscape." According to Bollinger, mammals (such a raccoons and skunks) frequently use habitats such as hedgerows as travel lanes while foraging. They are als common predators of bird nests. This study seeks to quantify the intensity of pre dation in hedgerow-nesting birds, and which features of hedgerows (e.g., length, width, adjacent habitats) ar correlated with rates of nest predation.

■ Gordon Tucker, \$2,961 fc
"Plant Inventory of Prairie
Ridge State Natural Area
(Marion County Unit)."

Here decert Liss
Connectics are construct. Plants
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This plant grows 18.28 inches
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Introduction

The John Ebinger Tallgrass Prairie Garden

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This Tall grass Prairie Garden is dedicated to Dis John Ebinger, and emeritus member of the Botany Department at Eastern Illinois University.

Dedications

attachment C

NATIVE PLANT GARDENS - SCHOOLS

Name of	Location of	Contact	Email of Contact Person
School	School	Person	
Charleston	Charleston,	Jan Easter	easter@charleston.k12.il.us
High Sch.	IL		
Eastern	Charleston,	Janice	jcoons@eiu.edu;
Illinois	IL	Coons &	necoutant@eiu.edu
Univ.		Nancy	
		Coutant	
Fieldcrest	Minonk, IL	Jeremy	School Phone Number
High Sch.		Hahn	309-432-2529
Lakeland	Mattoon, IL	Cindy	lhorton@lakeland.cc.il.us
Com.		Horton	
College			
Oakland	Oakland, Il	Jeff Coon	jcoon5@mchsi.com
High Sch.	7		
Riddle Ele.	Mattoon, IL	Nancy	nbrach@mattoon.k12.il.us;
Sch.		Brachbill	righer@mattoon.k12.il.us
		& Ron	
		Ghere	

attachment D

Prairie Plants for Schools

May 2007

Way 2007		
Scientific Name	# Plants	
Allium	Prairie Onion	1
stellatum		
Andropogon	Big Bluestem	3
gerardii	0	
Asclepias	Swamp or Red	1
incarnata	Milkweed	
Aster	Smooth Aster	2
laevis		
Baptisia	White Wild	2
alba	Indigo	~
Bouteloua	Side-Oats	4
curtipendula	Grama	1
Echinacea	Pale Purple	2
pallida	Coneflower	2
Eryngium	Rattlesnake	2
yuccifolium	Master	2
Helianthus	Sawtooth	1
grosseserratus	Sunflower	I
Helianthus	Downy	2
mollis	Sunflower	2
Lobelia	Great Blue	2
siphilitica	Lobelia	2
Monarda	Bradbury's	1
bradburiana	Bee Balm	
Monarda	Horsemint	2
punctata		2
Oligoneuron	Stiff Goldenrod	3
rigidum	o sair doidein ou	3
Penstemon	Foxglove	4
digitalis	Beardstongue	7
Ratibida	Gray-headed	2
pinnata	Coneflower	2
Ruellia	Wild Petunia	4
humilis		
Schizachyrium	Little Bluestem	2
scoparium	2130510111	-
Silphium	Compass Plant	2
acinatum	- Anguada i idili	-
Sorghastrum	Indian Grass	2
iutans	0.400	_
TOTAL ·	20	

TOTAL:

20 species/ 44 plants

attachment E

DEMONSTRATION GARDENS PRAIRIE PLANTS Spring 2007

All of these plant species were originally found in Illinois prairies. They will perform best in sunny locations. For more information about using plants native to Illinois in gardens, visit www.eiu.edu/~n_plants. (This website is currently being upgraded so be sure to check for major changes around late May).

Cultural Information

These plants were in a greenhouse until brought to you today. Hence, they need to be hardened before planting in your demonstration garden. To harden these plants, set the pots outside in a shaded area, and gradually move to sunny areas over one-two weeks. Keep watered during this time, although take care not to overwater.....less is better than more. After hardening, plants should be ready to plant into your demonstration garden. After planting, keep plants watered until established....but do not overwater. After this first year, your plants should be relatively carefree relative to traditional non-native plants in gardens.

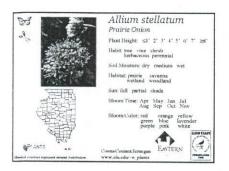
Janice Coons/Nancy Coutant Biological Sciences Department Eastern Illinois University

Project Supported by Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources

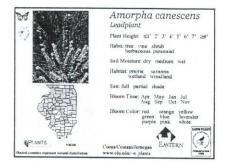


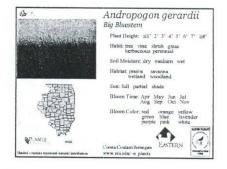


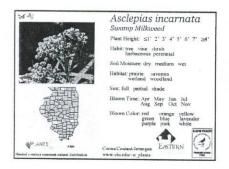
attachment F



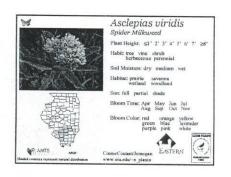
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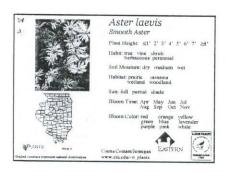


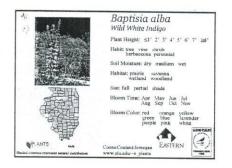


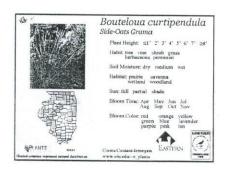


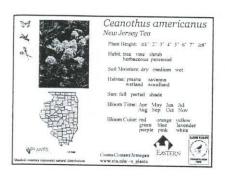


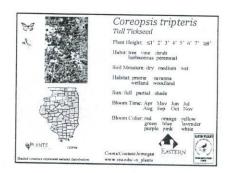






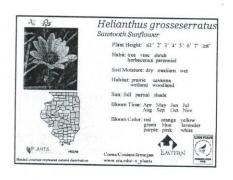


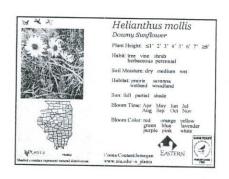




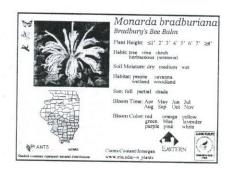






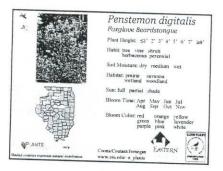


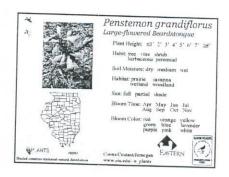


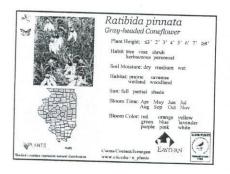


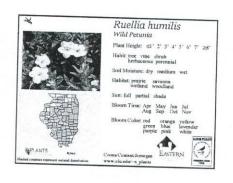


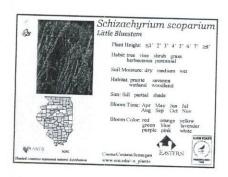




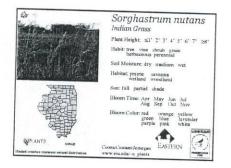














attachment G

Master Gardener Demonstration Gardens

All Counties Expressed Interest in Plants Highlighted Counties Obtained Plants

County	Last Name	First Name	Contact Info
Adams/Brown	Lee	Deborah	deblee@uiuc.edu
Bureau	Despain	Beatrice	busybea@ocslink.com
Coles	Kuhns	Sharon	slkuhns@uiuc.edu
Cook	Wolford	Ronald	rwolford@uiuc.edu
DeKalb	Peabody	Ron	rjpbody@verizon.net
DeWitt	Hodges	Sheryl	shodges@uiuc.edu
Douglas/Moultrie	Fitzjarrald	Maxine	cadwell@consolidated.net
Edgar	Ellis	Lisa	laellis@uiuc.edu
Effingham	Roedl	Brenda	roedl@uiuc.edu
Fayette	Boas	Ginger	gboas@uiuc.edu
Fulton	Pryor	Julia	jpryor@uiuc.edu
Henderson/Mercer/Warren	Kulczewski	Al	kulczews@uiuc.edu
Jackson	Billingsley	Ed	edb@uiuc.edu
Jefferson	Brookman	Treasa	tbrook@hamiltoncom.net
Jo Daviess	Korte	Chris	ckorte@aeroinc.net
Jo Daviess	Laursen	Margaret	mklarson@uiuc.edu
Jo Daviess	Pouzar	Carole	carolepouzar@yahoo.com
LaSalle	Stacy	Vicki	vickis2000@hotmail.com
Macon	Traum	Karyn	traum@uiuc.edu
Macoupin	Robinson	Paula	probinso@uiuc.edu
Madison/St. Clair	Burnet	Janet	jrburnet@uiuc.edu
Marshall/Putnam	Balensiefen	Gwen	balensie@uiuc.edu
Montgomery	Bassett	Kelli	kbassett@uiuc.edu
Ogle	Lindenmier	Bill	lindenb@uiuc.edu
Saline/Gallatin/Pope/Hardin	Stamer	Sheila	stamer@uiuc.edu
Sangamon/Menard	Fishburn	Jennifer	fishburn@uiuc.edu
Shelby	Trainor	Ellen	etrainor@uiuc.edu
Stephenson	Larson	Margaret	mklarson@uiuc.edu
Tazewell	Abts	John	tazewell_mg@extension.uiuc.edu
Will	Domanus	Mary	mdomanuse@aol.com
Will	MacNeil	Kay	Ozor@aol.com
Vermilion	Ksiazkiewicz	Dorothy	dorothyk@cooketech.net

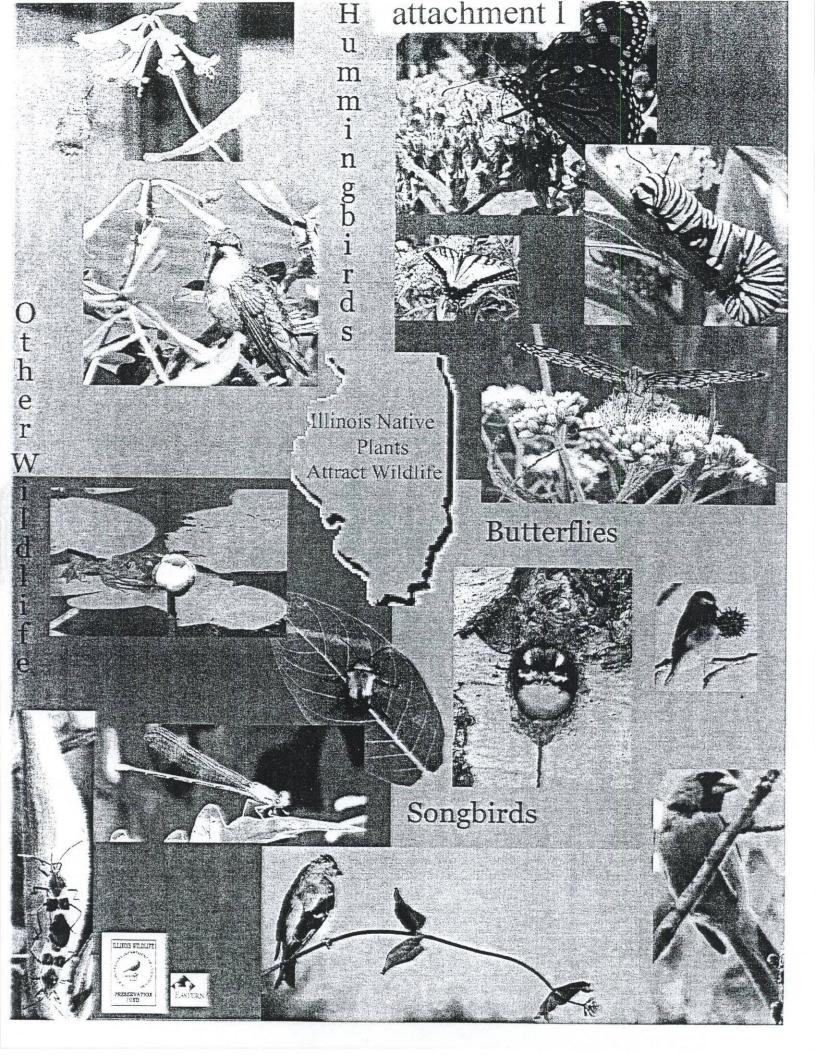
attachment H

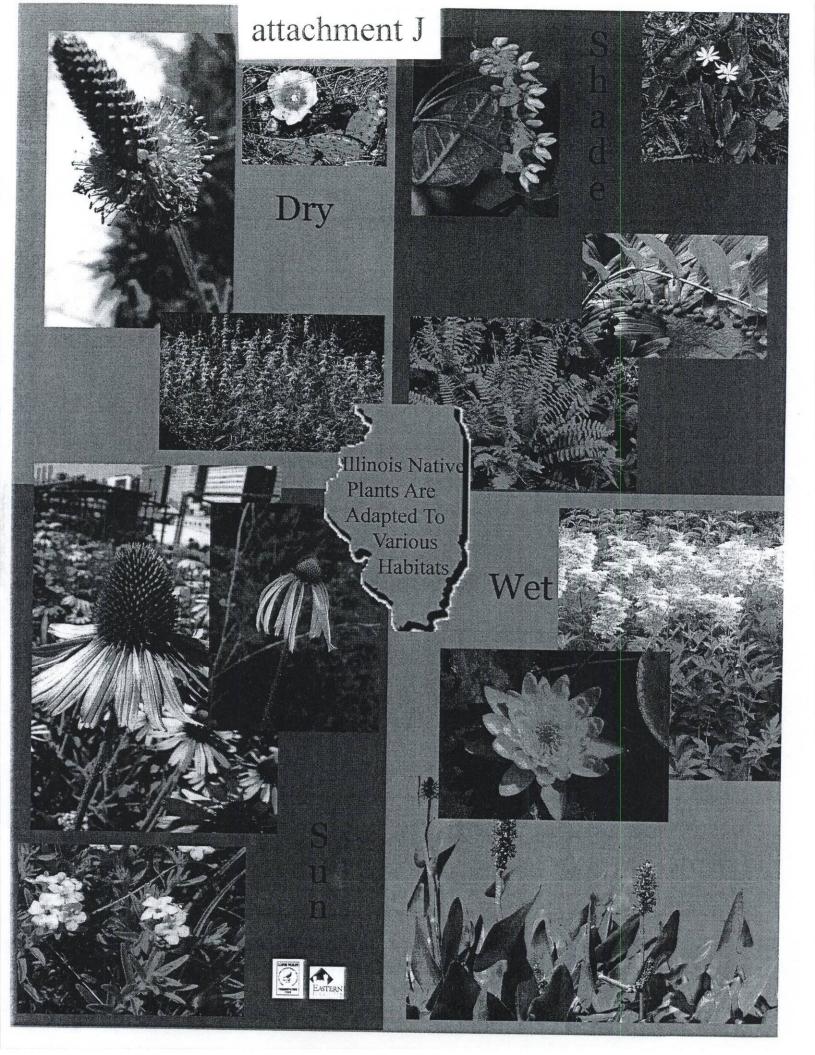
Prairie Plants for Master Gardeners May 2, 2007

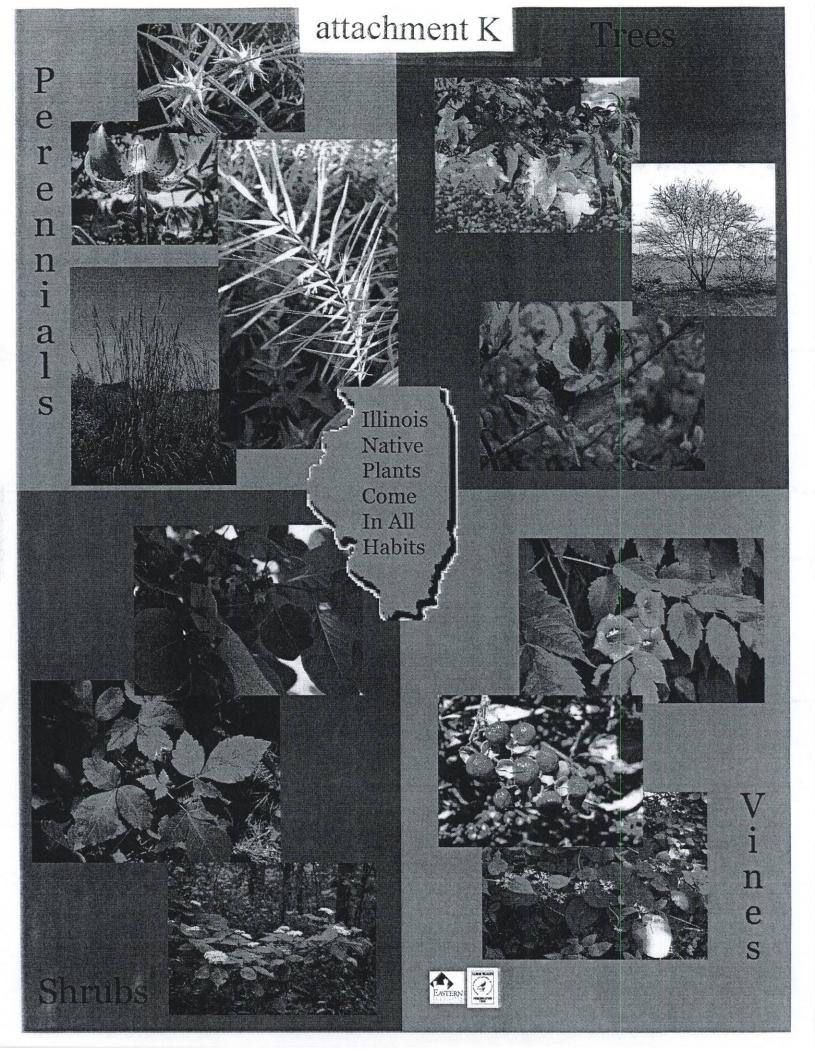
Scientific Name	Common Name	# Plants	
Allium			
stellatum		25-47	
Amorpha	Leadplant	2	
canescens		Page 1	
Andropogon	Big Bluestem	2	
gerardii			
Asclepias			
incarnata	Milkweed	1	
Asclepias	Prairie Milkweed	* One or other	
sullivantii		one or other	
Asclepias	Spider Milkweed	* One or other	
viridis	- F	One of other	
Aster	Smooth Aster	2	
laevis	2		
Bouteloua	Side-Oats Grama	2	
curtipendula	Jide Outo Grania	2	
Ceanothus	New Jersey Tea	1	
americanus	Tiew sersey rea	1	
Coreopsis	Tall Tickseed	1	
tripteris	Tan Tionseca	1	
Helianthus	Sawtooth	2	
grosseserratus	Sunflower	2	
Lobelia	Great Blue	2	
siphilitica	Lobelia	2	
Monarda	Bradbury's Bee	2	
bradburiana	Balm	2	
Oligoneuron Stiff Goldenrod		2	
rigidum	Suit Goldelifou	2	
Penstemon	Large-Flowered	1	
grandiflorus	Beardstongue	1	
Penstemon	Foxglove		
digitalis	Beardstongue		
Ruellia	Wild Petunia	3	
humilis	, rid i citilla	3	
Schizachyrium	Little Bluestem	1	
scoparium	Little Didestelli	1	
Silphium	Compass Plant	1	
lacinatum	Compass Frant	1	
Sorghastrum	Indian Grass	2	
nutans	midian Orass	2	
Verbena	Blue Vervain	2	
hastata	Dide vervalli	2	
TOTAT			

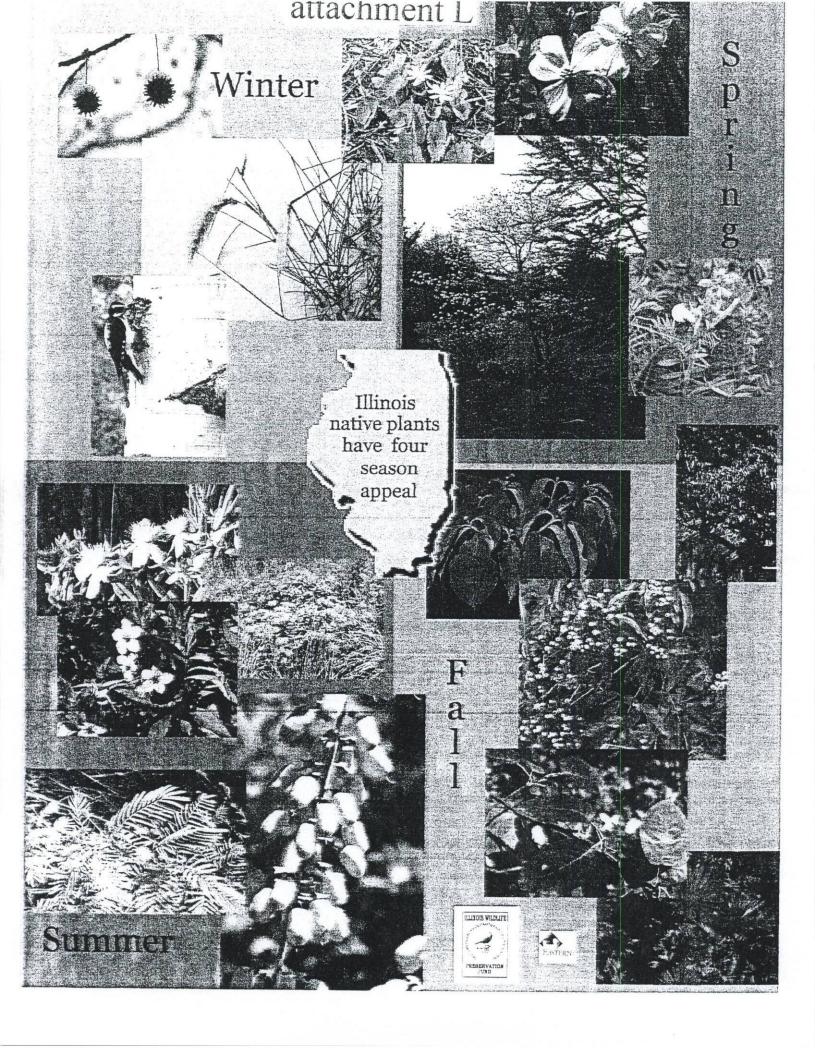
TOTAL:

21 species/35 plants











attachment N



White oak



Sassafras



attachment O

