

# Aldo Leopold Native Seed Orchard

## Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest

### 2011 Accomplishments

The Aldo Leopold Native Seed Orchard was established in 2007 to serve as a future seed collection site for the Lake Superior Clayplain. The first two years consisted of plowing, tilling and seeding winter rye and chemical spray applications to eliminate reed canary grass and other non-native species. Weed barrier was installed in 2009 to smother remaining non-native vegetation in preparation for planting.

The first planting of over 1,500 native plants in 2009 was successful with a 95% survival rate. 4,500 plants were planted in the summer of 2010 by U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Fish & Wildlife YCC Crews. A solar powered fence was installed to protect native plantings from deer browse.

In 2011, volunteers and Forest Service staff planted over 1,000 native plants. National Public Lands Day volunteers rolled up their sleeves to weed, transplant and install weed barrier. Additionally, a seed orchard sign was designed and fabricated for the entrance to the orchard.

Once established, this orchard will produce over 100 lbs. of seed annually for ecosystem restoration projects. Additionally, this orchard is part of the new Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center National Children's Forest. Visitor Center staff use this orchard as a teaching platform for Earth Partnership for Schools experiential education programs.

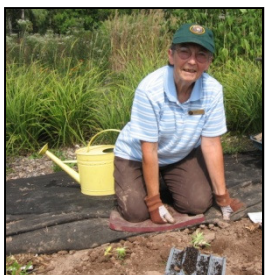


Figure 4. U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service YCC crews planted 4,500 native grasses, sedges and wildflowers in 2010.  
 Figure 5. Mark Jaunzems, Botanist, installs weed barrier. Weed barrier allows easy access for tours, programs and maintenance.  
 Figure 6: 38 teachers tour the seed orchard during the 2011 Great Lakes Earth Partnership for Schools Teacher Institute.



Figures 1-2. Students and UW-Extension Certified Master Gardeners planted over 1,000 native plants in 2011.

Figure 3. National Public Lands Day Volunteers weed orchard Sept. 24, 2011.



**Year Awarded:** 2011

**Project Completion:** September 2011

**Report Number:** 4

**Expenditures (through 9/2011):** \$1,555.90  
 NFN313  
 Genesis Graphics \$378  
 Greenhouse Mega Store \$670.02  
 Carlson Building Supplies, Inc. \$125.88  
 Genesis Graphics \$382

**Partners/Contractors/Coop:** U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Youth Conservation Corps, Ashland/Bayfield County Master Gardener Association, Northwoods Cooperative Weed Management Area, Wildflower Woods Nursery, Genesis Graphics

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