



Soils

Symbol	Name	notes
CuC2	Crofton Nora silt loam, 2-6% slopes	<i>Eroded, prime farmland</i>
CuD2	Crofton Nora silt loam, 6-11% slopes	<i>Eroded</i>
CuE2	Crofton-Nora silt loam, 11-15% slopes	<i>Eroded</i>
Or	Ortello loam, 0-2% slopes	<i>Prime farmland</i>
ThC	Thurman loamy fine sand, 3-6% slopes	
TnF	Thurman Crofton complex, 11-30% slopes	

A little management history: homestead assumed in 1884, has been in the family since then but rented from the 1950's to present. The pond was built in the '40's and brome was seeded on the dam. The east slope (where current seed plots are) was terraced and cropped in the 40's and reseeded to brome under the soil bank program. The pasture was under season-long grazing as long as anyone can remember until 1989 when it was enrolled in a wildlife habitat program. The trees were planted in that year. Spring-brome grazing started in 2007 and will continue. The pasture was burned in 2005 and we would like to do that again but the amount of down and standing dead wood is a concern. We may just keep grazing until most of the dead wood is removed. The prescribed fire seemed to stimulate the plums rather than eliminate them. The warm season grasses responded well.

The seed slope was planted with soybeans in 2004 and 2005. Most of the brome was suppressed but not eliminated even after using "round-up" once in 2005. The slope has been partially seeded to production species listed on next page. More surprising to me were the other native plants that showed up on their own and are listed on the back.

Seed Plots:



Natives not seeded but found on the slope:

- Leadplant – *Amorpha canescens* (bloomed 1st year after beans)
- Purple prairie clover – *Dalea purpurea* (bloomed 1st year after beans)
- Fringed puccoon – *Lithospermum incisum*
- Marbleseed – *Onosmodium molle**
- Prairie goldenrod – *Solidago missouriensis*
- Downy goldenrod – *Solidago mollis*
- Blazing Star – *Liatris punctata* (bloomed 1st year after beans)
- Narrow-leaf Coneflower – *Echinacea angustifolia* (bloomed 1st year after beans)
- Prairie coneflower – *Ratibida columnifera*
- Flodman thistle – *Cirsium flodmanii*
- Wavy-leaf thistle – *Cirsium undulatum**
- Hoary vervain – *Verbena stricta*
- Purple poppy mallow - *Callirhoe involucrata**
- Heath aster – *Aster ericoides*
- Shell-leaf penstemon (bloomed 1st year after beans) – *Penstemon grandiflora*
- Whorled milkweed – *Asclepias verticillata*
- Scarlet gaura – *Gaura coccinea*
- Skeleton weed – *Lygodesmia juncea*
- Pussy toes – *Antennaria sp*
- Sand dropseed – *Sporobolus cryptandrus*
- Scribner’s panicum – *Panicum oligosanthes var. scribnerianum*
- Opuntias

*not present elsewhere on farm

Species present but not seen in September:

- Prairie turnip, Violet sorrel, Prairie dandelion, Blue-eyed grass, Prairie violet

Hay Meadow:



Combined topography (black lines) and soils (reddish browns)

Soils: Valentine sand

This quarter section is a little over a mile away from the homestead and has completely different soils. It's also 80-100' lower in elevation.

Management History:

The hay meadow was acquired before the turn of the century (1886). I believe it has always been hayed. A depression in the meadow is believed to be a hand dug well to provide water for draft horses.

Haying frequency has varied from annually to biennially to half of it annually. Brome has invaded here but was never seeded. It is moving in off the road and land to the south.

This is part of a larger grassland complex covering over 3,000 acres. Although many species occur in both the pasture and here, some do not. Side oats is common in the pasture but is not found in the hay meadow. Prairie turnip does not occur here either.

Species present but not seen in September:

Easter daisy