

NEW ENGLAND TRANSPORTATION CONSORTIUM QUARTERLY PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

- A. PROJECT NUMBER AND TITLE:** NETC 21-3: Seed Production for NE Roadsides
- B. PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR(s) & UNIVERSITY(s):** J. Kuzovkina, University of Connecticut
- C. WEB SITE ADDRESS (If one exists):** NA
- D. START DATE (Per NETC Agreement):** May 18, 2022
- E. END DATE (Per NETC Agreement):** June 30, 2024

F. ANTICIPATED COMPLETION DATE: June 30, 2024

*If different from the END DATE in paragraph E., the reason must be given. It is the responsibility of the Principal Investigator to insure that the project, including review of the draft report by the Project Technical Committee and the printing of the Final Report, is completed prior to the Agreement End Date. Costs incurred after the Agreement End Date cannot be reimbursed. **Requests for extensions of the Agreement End Date must contain the reasons for the request and be submitted so as to arrive in the Coordinator's office at least 90 days prior to the Agreement End Date.***

G. PROJECT OBJECTIVES: The objective of this project is to increase native plantings and pollinator habitats with seed from local ecotypes along roadsides throughout New England. The proposed work is designed: 1) to promote ecotypic seed production for effective establishment of native plants on roadsides in New England and 2) to expand management practices that result in the proliferation of existing native plant communities along the roadsides in New England.

H. REPORT PERIOD: October 1, 2023- December 31, 2023

I. ACCOMPLISHMENTS THIS PERIOD:

Task 1: Current knowledge and practices (seed zones, seed mixes, BMP etc.)

- Prepared a draft of the Reduced Mowing Guide Factsheet
- The intern Laura Urban prepared drafts of the Monarch butterfly, Roadside appearance (for the public) Factsheets.
- Discussion with Tracy Zarillo (Oct. 19) and Kelsey Fisher (Nov. 13) from CAES about Monarch butterflies migration and mowing; Mary Ellen Lemay (Oct. 19) from Pollinator Pathway about integrating the roadsides into Pollinator.

Task 2: Investigate local seed production opportunities

- Continued to work with the Northeast Seed Network to help create future availability of ecotypic seed supply for the DOT: October 5th, November 7th and November 30th - Steering Committee meetings; November 13th - Network-wide online meeting; December 11th - in-person Steering Committee meeting at Highstead.
- Discussion with the representative of the prison system Dr. Cox about potential of seed production on prison grounds. Nov. 27, 2023.

- Submitted a presentation abstract “Climate Change as a Catalyst for New England Departments of Transportation (DOTs) to Transition to Revegetating Roadsides with Native Plants, which Influenced the Creation of the Northeast Seed Network to the National Seed Conference in February 8, 2024.

Task 3: Establish and monitor roadside demonstration plots for training and research purposes.

CT: Windsor site

Planting of forbs is performed using the Truax drill on October 16, 2023.

Site inspection and data collection on November 20.

MA: Holyoke site

Planting of grasses forbs is performed using the Truax drill on October 16, 2023.

Site inspection and data collection on November 20. Consulted with Ernst Conservation about Observations at the site.

VT: Vermont DOT evaluated the success of the planting on Nov. 13 (the planting was conducted on Aug. 22).

Discussion about the appearance of the seedlings with UConn team on Nov. 17-20.

Preparation of the report “Establishment of the demonstration sites”. The draft will be submitted to the TC in mid-January.

Discussed and confirmed the plans with TC during a meeting on December 6, 2023.

J. PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED (If any):

K. TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER ACTIVITIES: *List any reports, papers, presentations published/presented during the report period or anticipated for the next quarter. NA*

Preparation of the following drafts of the FactSheets is in progress

- Reduced mowing guide
- Monarch butterfly
- Roadside appearance (for the public)

L. STATUS BY TASK: *Show Work Task Number, description and % complete for each task including those completed, those underway, and those not started.*

Task1: Current knowledge and practices 90% complete

Task 2: Investigate local seed production opportunities 80% complete

Task 3: Establish and monitor roadside demonstration plots for training and research purposes 80% complete

Task 4: Draft Final Report and Technology Transfer Strategy and Toolbox 60% complete

Task 5: Deliverables: Final Report 0 30% complete

M. PERCENT COMPLETION OF TOTAL PROJECT: 80 %

N. ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR NEXT QUARTER:

- Revision of Subtask 3 of the Final report based on the TC comments
- Conduct site inspections in March 2024

O. FINANCIAL STATUS:

As of: January 1, 2024

Total Project Budget: \$ 200,000

Total Expenditures: \$ 150,000

Note: This report should not require more than 2-3 pages & should be e-mailed to the NETC Coordinator so as to arrive no later than ten (10) working days after the end of each calendar quarter.