

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: January 1, 2024- March 31, 2024

I. ACCOMPLISHMENTS THIS PERIOD:

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

- Conducted three rounds of edits of the Reduced Mowing Guide Monarch butterfly, Roadside appearance (for the public) Factsheets based on the TC suggestions.

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. March 5: Steering Committee meeting- Addressed issues related to newsletter publication; April 2: Steering Committee meeting - Addressed agenda for April 11th network-wide meeting, which includes overview of 5-year strategy plan and Ecotype Projects on-line network map
- Made a presentation "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" at the National Seed Conference in February 8, 2024.
- Preparation of the Report for the TC

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

- Revision of the report “Establishment of the demonstration sites”. The draft was submitted to the TC in mid-January. Two rounds of revisions were conducted.

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*

Edited versions of the Factsheets are in preparation

- 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 95% complete

Task 2: Investigate local seed production opportunities 90% complete

Task 3: Establish and monitor roadside demonstration plots for training and research purposes 90% complete

Task 4: Draft Final Report and Technology Transfer Strategy and Toolbox 70% complete

Task 5: Deliverables: Final Report 50% complete

M. PERCENT COMPLETION OF TOTAL PROJECT: 85 %

N. ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR NEXT QUARTER:

- Revision of Subtask 2 of the Final report based on the TC comments
- Conduct site inspections in April-May 2024
- Completion of Task1-4

O. FINANCIAL STATUS:

As of: January 1, 2024

Total Project Budget: \$ 200,000

Total Expenditures: \$ 170,000

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.