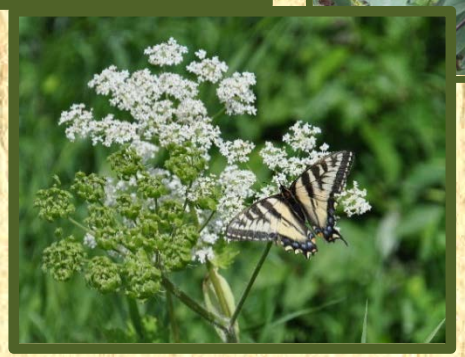
Re-establishment of Culturally Significant Riparian Plant Species

Priorities

Following initial meetings with Elders from 5 First Nations, 12 priority species were identified



- Wēhkuskwa
- Amisko wehkuskwa
- Mwākōpakwā(h)tik
- Wakinakin
- Pakwānāhtik
- Nadláre *
- Dī yoshetī **
- Ayikicās
- Muskekopukwa
- Waskītīpak
- K'ai
- Tunelhesaze

Most names are in Cree
* Dene
** Slave

Priorities

Following initial meetings with Elders from 5 First Nations, 12 priority species were identified

- Sweetgrass
- Wild mint
- Sweet gale
- Tamarack
- Cow parsnip
- Cloudberry
- Bog birch
- Pitcher plant
- Labrador tea
- Yellow pond lily
- Diamond willow
- Small bog cranberry

Harvest

Seeds of 10 species were harvested from various locations.
An offering of tobacco was placed at each harvest site.

Medicinal

Construction

Food Source

Ceremonial

Art

Harvest

In 2017, First Nations Elders aided in harvest in their traditional areas

Biodiversity

Although these species are important to the First Nations of the area, they also contribute to increasing biodiversity of reclaimed wetlands.

- A variety of sizes from small bog cranberry to tamarack
- Forbs and grasses as well as shrubs
- Adapted to various moisture regimes

Germination

We evaluated germination to ascertain optimum pretreatments for overcoming dormancy.

- Small bog cranberry germinated following a standard cold stratification period of 4 weeks.
- Cow parsnip has a long, complicated dormancy - overcome with a mix of cold and warm stratifications.
- Half of our pitcher plant seeds germinated at the longest cold stratification tested, so a second test with 12-24 weeks is being tested.

Greenhouse Production

Seedlings for out-planting were grown by Smoky Lake Forest Nursery or Bearberry Creek Greenhouses and Nursery.

- Bearberry Creek specialize in wetland and water garden species.
- Species without special requirements were produced by Smoky Lake.

Field trials

On two constructed wetlands, and one opportunistic wetland, we have planted seedlings.

- **Wet** - standing water
- **Moist** - margin of water where they are periodically inundated
- **Mesic** - upslope

Ongoing

Field plots continue to be monitored for survival, growth and development, including flowering or vegetative spread.

Information from the literature reviews and establishment trials will be incorporated into the 'Revegetation Species Profiles' (OSRIN 2013) and BMP's prepared for inclusion in 'Riparian Reclamation Species Selection Tool' (GDC 2009).

Thank You

Wild Rose Consulting, Inc.

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