

RESTORATION TOOLS

*The best management is integrated management.
No one of these tools on its own is a cure-all.
Think about how each could address the needs of
your property.*

Hand-Weeding—can be used to control many non-woody invasive species in areas where herbicide use is undesirable. Be vigilant when disturbing large areas of soil as the disruption will promote the germination of weed seeds lying dormant in the ground.

Herbicide—can be used with caution to control invasive species. The two most common methods of application are spraying herbicide on the leaves of the plant, or, for woody species, cutting the trunk/stem close to the ground and applying herbicide to the stump. Herbicides must always be used in accordance with their labels and with the appropriate safety equipment.

Mowing—can be used to set back invasives or more vigorous native species to give others a chance. Make sure that any invasive species you might be mowing are unable to re-sprout from stem fragments.

Burning—can be used to reinvigorate natives and set back invasives. Fire is essential for many Oak Openings ecosystems, but should be planned and implemented carefully.

Invasive Plants to Control

This is not a comprehensive list of invasive plants are found in mesic sand tallgrass prairies. These six species are the most widespread. For more information about how to ID and control these and other invasive species found in the Oak Openings Region, visit the Midwest Invasive Species Information Network at www.misin.msu.edu.



CANADA THISTLE



TEASELS



SPOTTED KNAPWEED



SMOOTH BROME



BOUNCING BET



DAME'S ROCKET

Additional Resources

Native Seed, Plants, and Seed Collection:

Green Ribbon Initiative
oakopenings@tnc.org

WildOnes Oak Openings Chapter
oakopenings.wildones.org

Metroparks Toledo Native Seed Nursery
[metroparkstoledo.com/features-and-rentals/
native-seed-nursery/](http://metroparkstoledo.com/features-and-rentals/native-seed-nursery/)

Wood County Park District Stewardship Department
(419) 661-5113



The Green Ribbon Initiative is a partnership of public and private organizations, landowners, and individuals working together to preserve, enhance, and restore critical natural areas in the Oak Openings Region of Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan.
www.oakopenings.org oakopenings@tnc.org

HOMEOWNER'S NATIVE HABITAT GUIDE



MESIC SAND TALL- GRASS PRAIRIE

*A resource for landowners interested
in restoring their Oak Openings
Region property.*

Reading Your Landscape

Mesic Sand Tallgrass Prairie is seasonally flooded, holding water from late winter to mid-spring. This plant community occurs on sand flats between the sand dunes. Soils often have thick, dark surface horizons. Vegetation composition varies within the community due to slight changes in soil pH and moisture. Trees are scarce, but shrubs can be locally common.



Visit A Mesic Prairie

Kitty Tod d Nature Preserve

10420 Old State Line Rd

Swanton, Oh 43558

MSTP Native Plants

Grasses/Sedges Flowers Trees/Shrubs

BASIC: This list indicates plants that are most common to this plant community. Seeds are available through the GRI.

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Big Bluestem | <i>Andropogon gerardii</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Purple Love Grass | <i>Eragrostis spectabilis</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Little Bluestem | <i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Indiangrass | <i>Sorghastrum nutans</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Graceful Sedge | <i>Carex gracillima</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Swan’s Sedge | <i>Carex swanii</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Branched Rush | <i>Juncus anthelatus</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Path Rush | <i>Juncus tenuis</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tall Coreopsis | <i>Coreopsis tripteris</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Common Fleabane | <i>Erigeron philadelphicus</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grass-leaved Goldenrod | <i>Euthamia graminifolia</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tall Sunflower | <i>Helianthus giganteus</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marsh Blazing-star | <i>Liatris spicata</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black-eyed Susan | <i>Rudbeckia hirta</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Early Goldenrod | <i>Solidago juncea</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gray Goldenrod | <i>Solidago nemoralis</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Calico Aster | <i>Symphyotrichum lateriflorum</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New England Aster | <i>Symphyotrichum novae-angliae</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Veiny Lined Aster | <i>Symphyotrichum praealtum</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tall Ironweed | <i>Vernonia gigantean</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Roundhead Bushclover | <i>Lespedeza capitata</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wild Bergamot | <i>Monarda fistulosa</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Common Mountain Mint | <i>Pycnanthemum virginianum</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Foxglove Beard-tongue | <i>Penstemon digitalis</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blue Vervain | <i>Verbena hastata</i> |

INTERMEDIATE: These plants indicate that the habitat is maturing. Consider interseeding with species from this list.

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Switch Grass | <i>Panicum virgatum</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Common Milkweed | <i>Asclepias syriaca</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Butterfly-weed | <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pasture Thistle | <i>Cirsium discolor</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Great Lakes Goldenrod | <i>Euthamia remota</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sweet Everlasting | <i>Pseudognaphalium obtusifolium</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Lined Aster | <i>Symphyotrichum lanceolatum</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pale Spike Lobelia | <i>Lobelia spicata</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spiderwort | <i>Tradescantia ohiensis</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Showy Tick-trefoil | <i>Desmodium canadense</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Panicked Tick-trefoil | <i>Desmodium perplexum</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Obedient Plant | <i>Physostegia virginiana</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Woodland Thimbleweed | <i>Anemone virginiana</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Small-flowered Agrimony | <i>Agrimonia parviflora</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shrubby St. John’s-wort | <i>Hypericum prolificum</i> |

HIGH BIODIVERSITY: These plants indicate that the habitat is mature. Plants on this list may be difficult to acquire.

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bottlebrush Grass | <i>Elymus hystrix</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Common Satin Grass | <i>Muhlenbergia frondosa</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Slender Yellow Flax | <i>Linum virginianum</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Whorled Milkweed | <i>Asclepias verticillata</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Purple Joe-Pye Weed | <i>Eupatorium purpureum</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Colic-root | <i>Aletris farinosa</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Culver’s-root | <i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wild Licorice | <i>Galium circaezans</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White Vervain | <i>Verbena urticifolia</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arrow-leaved Violet | <i>Viola sagittata</i> |

WHY IT MATTERS

Mesic Sand Tallgrass Prairie is globally vulnerable and is one of the rarest communities in the Oak Openings Region. It was one the most common wetland community in the region, but because of development and fire suppression it is now reduced to small patches.



STEPS TO BACKYARD HABITAT RESTORATION

1. Inventory what you already have
2. Watch water behavior
3. Remove invasive species
4. See what returns naturally
5. Enhance with native species
6. Maintain with yearly mowing