

CHAMPLAIN VALLEY NATIVE PLANT RESTORATION NURSERY

Project Summary

The mission of the nursery is to produce high quality container-grown seedlings from local seed stock for restoration and buffer plantings in the Champlain Valley. The nursery, started in 2002, is a partnership between the Poultney-Mettowee Watershed Partnership (PMWP) and The Nature Conservancy's Southern Lake Champlain Valley Program. The PMWP focuses on the interstate watersheds of the Poultney and Mettowee Rivers and is itself, a partnership between two state soil conservation districts; one in NY and one in VT. The Poultney and Mettowee River watersheds are located in northern Bennington and western Rutland Counties, VT and in northeastern Washington County, NY. The Conservancy's Southern Lake Champlain Valley Program has a similar interstate focus, as its program area includes land in both NY and VT. The plantings will serve many goals including, stabilizing streambanks (reducing erosion), restoring native plant communities (clayplain and floodplain forests), re-establishing connectivity of habitat along riparian corridors, improving water quality, and preventing the spread of non-native plant material in the landscape.

As of November 2005, over 23,000 seedlings produced from locally collected seeds are growing in deep-cell containers.

The nursery receives a great amount of help from volunteers and interns in accomplishing seed collection, propagation and growing operations. Many opportunities exist for individuals and groups interested in learning about native plant production and lending a hand.

The long-term financial goal of the nursery is to become self-sustaining through the sale of seedlings. Seedlings are being sold wholesale to individuals and groups engaged in conservation and restoration plantings in the Champlain Valley such as regional watershed and county conservation districts, private conservation organizations, and farmers and private landowners enrolled in government cost-share conservation programs. The first Open House at the nursery was held in the early fall of 2004, when local individuals had a chance to tour the nursery and purchase seedlings in smaller quantities.

For more information contact:

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Trees	
Silver maple	<i>Acer saccharinum</i> *
Red maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i> *
Sugar maple	<i>Acer saccharum</i> *
Musclewood	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i> *
Shagbark hickory	<i>Carya ovata</i> *
American beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>
White ash	<i>Fraxinus americana</i>
Green ash	<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i> *
Hophornbeam	<i>Ostrya virginiana</i> *
White pine	<i>Pinus strobus</i>
Pitch pine, dwarf	<i>Pinus rigida</i> *
Sycamore	<i>Platanus occidentalis</i> *
Cottonwood	<i>Populus deltoides</i> *
White oak	<i>Quercus alba</i> *
Swamp white oak	<i>Quercus bicolor</i> *
Bur oak	<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i> *
Chestnut oak	<i>Quercus prinus</i> *
Red oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i> *
Black willow	<i>Salix nigra</i> *
Basswood	<i>Tilia americana</i> *
Eastern hemlock	<i>Tsuga canadensis</i> *
American elm	<i>Ulmus americana</i> *

Shrubs	
Speckled alder	<i>Alnus incana</i> *
Button bush	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>
Silky dogwood	<i>Cornus amomum</i> *
Gray dogwood	<i>Cornus racemosa</i> *
Red-osier dogwood	<i>Cornus sericea</i> *
Witch-hazel	<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i> *
Winterberry holly	<i>Ilex verticillata</i> *
Carolina rose	<i>Rosa caroliniana</i> *
Maple-leaf viburnum	<i>Viburnum acerfolium</i>
Arrowwood	<i>Viburnum dentatum</i> *
Nanny berry	<i>Viburnum lentago</i> *
Highbush-cranberry	<i>Viburnum trilobum</i> *

*Species growing as of November 2005