

Seeding Missouri Natives on a Green Rooftop at Shaw Nature Reserve



Polanisia (lt. pink) and Talinum (magenta) in bloom. Rooftop was kept watered during the summer drought.



In spring of 2012 Shaw Nature Reserve built a green rooftop on top of its new bathroom near the picnic pavilions. First, the building was engineered to support the extra weight! You can't just put a green roof on top of any building. The next step involved rolling out a protective layer of rubber liner. Then inter-locking rigid plastic trays were spread out over the entire area followed by a six-inch layer of soil that was hoisted onto the roof with a crane (see photo). The soil is a lightweight mixture of heat-expanded rock, compost and sand. In early May seed was hand sown (see photo). Seed had been kept cool and moist in a refrigerator for over two months to break seed dormancy. Germination occurred within one week followed by a light fertilizing three weeks later. The seed mix consisted of the following species:

- Achillea millefolium*
- Agalinis tenuifolia***
- Allium cernuum*
- A. stellatum***
- Amorpha canescens*
- Aster oolentangiense*
- Bouteloua curtipendula***
- Calamintha arkansana*
- Chamaecrista fasciculata***
- Chrysopsis villosa***
- Coreopsis lanceolata*
- Dalea purpurea**
- Echinacea simulata**
- Gentiana andrewsii*
- Helenium amarum***
- Heuchera richardsonii*
- Koeleria macrantha*
- Liatris punctata*
- Manfreda virginica**
- Palafoxia callosa***
- Polanisia dodecandra***
- Pycnanthemum tenuifolia**
- Ratibida columnifera**
- R. pinnata*
- Rudbeckia hirta**
- R. missouriensis*
- Solidago missouriensis*
- S. nemoralis*
- Sporobolus compositus*
- S. heterolepis*
- Talinum calycinum***
- Tridens strictus*
- Zizia aurea*

* species that germinated by August

** species that bloomed in the first year