

ONE SCHOOL ONE FARM SHELTERBELT PROJECT

SPRING STATS

Ongoing Projects: 32
Trees/shrubs: 1,045
Wildflowers/grasses: 1,722
Classroom Nurseries: 21
Native Species: 89
Domestic Species: 1
Students engaged: 575

2020 to 2026:

Total Planted: 13,552
Trees, shrubs, flowers, grasses
all going to seed!

Growing More Than Trees: 5 Years of Learning Together

For the past five years, one of the highlights of our fall has been welcoming Mrs. Peters' Grade 1 and 2 class from Aberdeen Composite School to our farm as part of the One School One Farm program. What began as a simple tree planting activity has grown into a meaningful partnership built on community, environmental stewardship, and a shared love of nature.

Mrs. Peters brings an incredible passion for gardening and the natural world into her classroom. She inspires her students to appreciate plants, wildlife, and the changing seasons, and we have been fortunate to help extend that learning beyond the classroom walls. Every autumn, her students arrive eager to get their hands dirty, learn something new, and leave behind a lasting contribution to the landscape.

Over the past five years, these young students have planted hundreds of native trees and shrubs around our farm. The first class that joined us planted what is now

becoming a small forest. Today, those same trees have grown enough that this year's students can run through them, exploring paths that didn't exist just a few years ago. It is especially rewarding when younger brothers and sisters proudly point out where their older siblings planted trees in previous years, creating a living connection between classes.

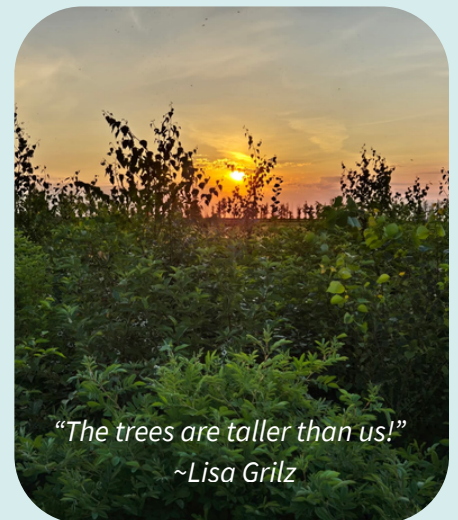
The experience is about far more than planting trees. Each visit becomes an outdoor classroom where students discover the beauty of Saskatchewan in autumn. They admire the brilliant fall colours, watch ducks and geese gathering on the wetland, sample fresh crabapples, wander through our native wildflower seed production plots, and experience firsthand how farms can support biodiversity. Every visit sparks curiosity, questions, and excitement about the natural world.

One of the greatest joys comes after the students leave. Throughout the year we often meet them around the neighbourhood in Aberdeen. Without fail, they ask about "their" trees. They want to know how much they have grown, whether the deer have been eating them, and when they can come back to see them again. That sense of ownership is exactly what conservation is all about. When children feel connected to a place, they begin to care for it.

Aberdeen itself is a unique community, bringing together farm families, acreage residents, and "townies." Programs like One School One Farm help bridge those different backgrounds by giving every child the opportunity to experience the land in a meaningful way. Whether they grow up on a farm or in town, every student deserves the chance to plant a tree, watch it grow, and understand the role they can play in caring for the environment.

Looking back over the past five years, we are incredibly grateful for this partnership with Mrs. Peters and Aberdeen Composite School. Together, we have grown far more than trees and shrubs. We have helped cultivate curiosity, stewardship, and lasting memories for dozens of young students. As those trees continue to grow, we hope the students' connection to nature grows alongside them, reminding them that even the smallest hands can leave a lasting mark on the landscape.

Renny W. Grilz, P.Ag, 2024 Nuffield Canada Contemporary Scholar
Grassland Restoration Specialist, [Blazing Star Wildflower Seed Company](https://www.blazingstarwildflowerseedcompany.com).



"The trees are taller than us!"

~Lisa Grilz



Partner Planning For 2026/2027

We are growing fast and still only have half an Elizabeth running the show! It is crucial that her focus shifts to more administrative work in order to provide all of you with more supports in the future. The goal this year is funding for more staff - and it will happen!

In the meantime, If you are a seasoned teacher or land partner that is enthusiastic to coach a new teacher or land partner, please let Elizabeth know and she will set up a buddy system. This is another great way to build community.

Elizabeth will be there to support all new project partners on their first planting days.

OSOF will hold two **Online Kickoff Sessions for 2026/2027**. It is highly suggested (one rung lower than mandatory) to sign up for one of these to ensure that you are informed and have all your questions answered for this upcoming year.

Session 1: Wednesday August 26th 12 - 12:40 pm

Session 2: Thursday August 27th 7 - 7:40 pm

Meeting links will be sent out to all project partnerships on Tuesday, August 25th.

Can You Plan Your Teaching Year Around OSOF Objectives?

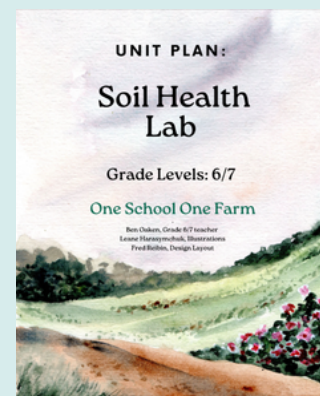
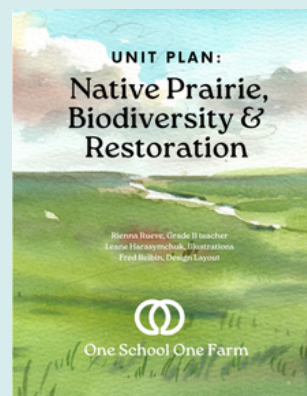
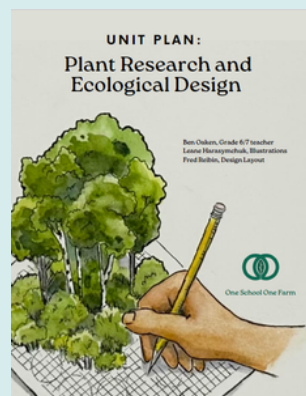
All literacy can be taught through a nature-based lens. Letters and numbers can be a reflection of the natural world around us. Pattern recognition in mathematics - counting, sorting, multiplying, dividing - this can all be done in relation to a site that is alive and changing.

This year, every class will be challenged to up their data game! You will be provided spreadsheets that will be handed back to OSOF at the end of the school year (So Elizabeth isn't spending the first two weeks of July tallying everyone's stats from photographs :)

This is a great opportunity to teach real world data collection which can be transformed into charts for your own teaching and learning purposes.

If you would like to work with a knowledge keeper or elder this year, let us know early in the school year. We will try to accommodate as many classrooms as possible, knowing that the elders and knowledge keepers we work with have busy schedules and many community commitments.

Remember to make good use of the [Educational Resources](#) on our website.



Year of the Yellow Prairie Coneflower 2025/2026 Wrapped Up!

Have you noticed coneflowers in the ditches this year? Nature got the memo! I swear, we didn't have enough seed to spread in all those places. The moisture this spring must have been just the thing to bring about their presence. Or, is everyone just noticing them now because they've learned so much about them?

This is often how relationships with plants work. Many people are 'plant blind' - unable to notice the subtle differences between different species. This is not uncorrectable. We can all get to know the plants around us.

Board member, Joanne Blythe, did an amazing job writing the Eco-Clips that helped us learn more about the interdependencies between the coneflower and so many other species. Thank you, Joanne!

Leane Harasymchuck, of [Cold Prairie Studios](#), provided beautiful illustrations of the prairie coneflower, that we shared far and wide. Thank you, Leane!



Pulsatilla nuttalliana

The Year of the Prairie Crocus 2026/2027

This school year we will focus our learning around *mostos otisij*. We are thrilled to be working with artist, Kevin Wesaquate, to help our network connect with this beautiful flower and the stories that tell of deep relationships with the buffalo.

We hope for all of our school partners to find places in their communities to plant, so that no children grow up here without having a relationship with this early sign of spring.

Watch our socials for Eco-Clips and stories about this plant relative.

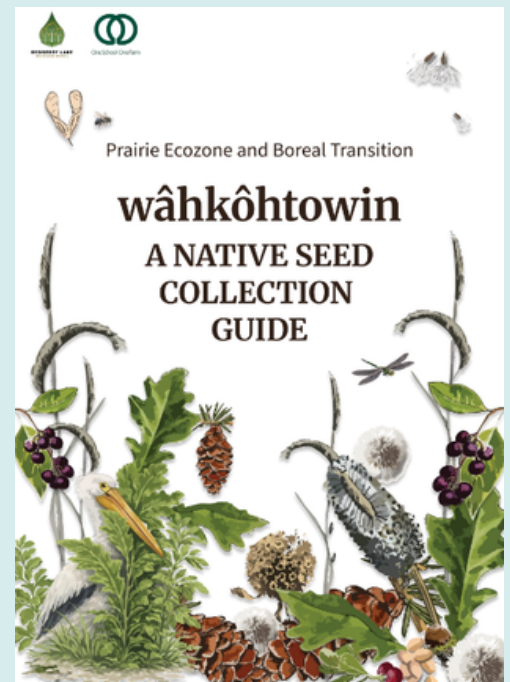
Seeding the Future: Native Seed Collection Guide

Last winter we had the privilege of working on a native seed collection guide in collaboration with Redberry Lake Biosphere Region. There are going to be three ways to access this resource:

1. Online for free - [Native Seed Collection Guide](#)
2. In print - coming soon via [Redberry Lake Biosphere Region](#)
3. As flashcards on a key ring - coming soon via RBLR

HELP US PRESERVE AND SPREAD LOCAL PRAIRIE GENETICS - If you have native prairie that you are caring for - please become a seed keeper for us, or become an OSOF land partner so that a classroom of students can collect seeds to share with our network.

A huge thank you to Emilia Hofmann for her formatting wizardry, Leane Harasymchuk for the botanical illustrations, Tim Eashappie for Nakoda language translations, Jeff Wastesicoot for Nêhiyawêwin translations, and Gabriel Dumont Institute for the Michif translations.



Partners 2026

Partner Classrooms:

Walter Murray Collegiate
Bedford Road Collegiate (2 classes)
Tommy Douglas Collegiate
Nutana Collegiate (2 classes)
Bethlehem Catholic High School
City Park
North Park Wilson
Buena Vista
École Lakeview School
Sylvia Fedoruk
Montgomery
École-Canadienne-Française
École College Park School
École Silverspring School
Westmount Community School
Albert Community School
Sacred Heart Community School
Moosomin First Nation School
Indian Head School
Allan Composite School
Prince Albert Collegiate Institute
Queen Mary
Bishop Lloyd
Engelfeld
Spruce Home
Aberdeen
Lumsden High School
Learning on the Land - Moose Jaw
Kenaston
3 New!

Land Partners:

Restoring 71
Wanuskewin Heritage Park
Kâmwâtanahk Land-Based Learning
Wilson Restoration Project
Schultz Farm
A Prairie Bouquet
Farm One Forty
City of Saskatoon - Naturalized Parks
Grovenland Farm
McBride Farm - Vanscoy

Meewasin Valley Authority
Thorstad Acreage - Corman Park
Redberry Lake Biosphere Region
Prairie Habitat Garden U of S
LePage Farm - St. Denis
Reed Acreage - Corman Park
Muskeg Lake Cree Nation
Kanak Farm
The Land Studio and Accommodations
Prairie Garden Seeds
Three Corners Restoration
Wander's Tiny Farm
Groves Farm - Sturgeon Lake
Wilkinson Farm - Lily Plain
McLaren Farm - Maidstone
Adam Farm - Gurnsey
MacNiell Farm - Spruce Home
Blazingstar Wildflower Seed Company
Wootton Farm - Bethune
Wakamow Valley Authority
Ringdal Farm
3 new!

Species Planted:

Acer negundo
Achillea millefolium
Agastache foeniculum
Agoseris glauca
Allium cernuum
Allium stellatum
Allium textile
Amelanchier alnifolia
Anaphalis margaritacea
Anemone cylindrica
Antennaria neglecta
Antennaria parvifolia
Argentina anserina
Artemisia frigida
Artemisia ludoviciana
Asclepias ovalifolia
Astragalus crassicaulis
Astragalus laxmannii var. *robustior*
Betula papyrifera
Bouteloua gracilis
Campanula alaskana + *rotundifolia*
Cerastium arvense
Cornus sericea

Crataegus chrysocarpa
Dalea candida
Dalea purpurea
Echinacea angustifolia
Elaeagnus commutata
Elymus trachycaulus
Erigeron compositus
Erigeron glabellus
Erigeron philadelphicus
Erysimum capitatum
Fragaria virginiana
Fraxinus pennsylvanica
Gaillardia aristata
Galium boreale
Geum triflorum
Hesperostipa comata
Hesperostipa spartea
Heterotheca villosa
Heuchera parvifolia
Koeleria macrantha
Liatris ligulistylis
Liatris punctata
Linum lewisii
Maianthemum stellatum
Monarda fistulosa
Nassella viridula
Oenothera biennis
Oenothera flava
Oenothera nuttallii
Oryzopsis hymenoides
Oxytropis sericea
Panicum virgatum
Pediomelum esculentum
Penstemon nitidus
Penstemon procerus
Picea glauca
Picea pungens
Pinus banksiana
Pinus contorta
Populus balsamifera
Populus deltoides monilifera
Populus tremuloides
Prunus pensylvanica

Prunus virginiana
Pulsatilla nuttalliana
Quercus macrocarpa
Ratibida columnifera
Ratibida columnifera pulcherrima
Rubus idaeus
Rudbeckia hirta
Salix bebbiana
Salix discolor
Salix exigua
Sambucus racemosa
Shepherdia argentea
Schizachyrium scoparium
Sisyrinchium montanum
Solidago missouriensis
Solidago mollis
Solidago nemoralis
Solidago rigida
Symphytotrichum laeve
Thalictrum venulosum
Thermopsis rhombifolia
Viburnum edule
Viburnum trilobum



Our Projects Exist Because Of Your Generosity

We express our gratitude to the numerous individuals and community organizations that support our efforts



Community
Initiatives Fund