

Production and marketing of regional seeds

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Abstract

The increasing loss of semi-natural grasslands is a very serious threat to rural development resulting in negative consequences for ecology, economy and society. Site-specific species are well adapted to local conditions. With the correct selection of regional species, erosion-stable, appealing and often valuable nature-conservation plant societies can be formed. The positive ecological and economic effects of such site-specific restoration could already be proved in the course of a great many trials. A good method for the exploitation of site specific seed material is the large-area production of seed of suitable species with the aid of agricultural techniques. Above all species used often and in larger amounts can be produced at a comparatively reasonable price and implemented on appropriately large project areas. Together with the basic scientific work that took place at the Research Institute Raumberg-Gumpenstein, the company "Kärntner Saatbau" assumed responsibility for the commercial realisation of the seed production of site-specific species. "RENATURA" is the brand name for the result of the many years of innovative cooperation through science and practice. The outcomes of these endeavours are regional seed mixtures for the colline, montane, sub-alpine and alpine zones of Austria, containing up to 100 % of site-specific seeds.

Key words: regional seed mixtures, ecological restoration, site-specific species