

# Collection, propagation and use of regional seed material for the establishment of semi-natural grassland in Austria



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The Agricultural Research and Education Centre Raumberg-Gumpenstein (AREC) is a research entity of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management (BMLFUW - <http://www.lebensministerium.at>). It is well-positioned in the research area of cultural landscape, grassland ecology and organic farming.

The “Department for Ecological Restoration and Forage Crop Breeding” deals with ecological restoration using site-specific seed mixtures, which are perfectly adapted to local climate conditions, e.g. in the Alpine regions. Seed material of grasses, forbs and legumes of semi-natural grassland is collected in different regions of Austria, propagated and stored in the specific gene bank of AREC.

Selected material is reproduced by farmers on a larger scale for restoration activities. So genetic resources of autochthonous grassland species and crop wild relatives are conserved and seed material is available for restoration activities in the respective areas of origin.



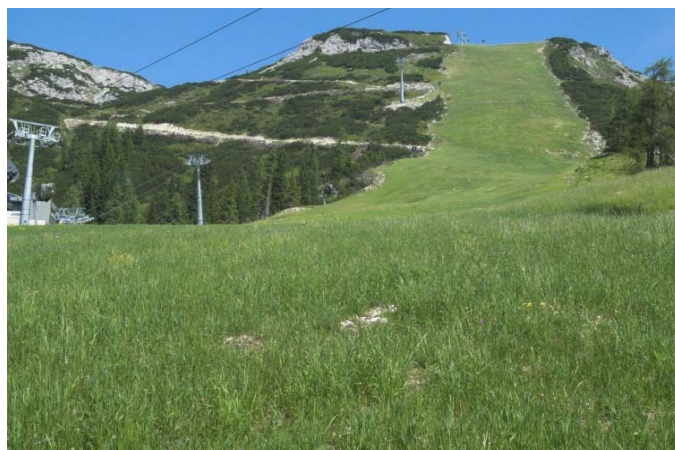
Propagation of local seeds on small scale



Harvesting on small scale



Establishment of abandoned land with local seeds before and 5 years after restoration (Ennsvalley, Styria)



Restoration of alpine grassland with site specific seed mixture (ski run Tauplitzalm, Styria)