Will Prairie Plug my Tile?
And Other Practical Questions about Prairie on Farms

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Prairie on Farms Program

- Field days and on-line communication
- Demonstration sites designed for learning
- Support for a “community of practice”
1. **Will Prairie Plug My Tile?**
   a. Probably Not

2. **Other common questions between on-farm and roadside prairie plantings**
   1. Share your experiences
“Some hours later, between Waterloo and Dyersville, especially east of Independence, we saw a galaxy of these glorious prairie flowers; the pink blossomed sweet william, solid masses, which any passenger on the train could recognize, and where the soil was sandy the bluish and purple spider wort evanescent in its bloom. The morning sunshine on these blossoms made a great impression... There is still left some of the virgin flora, but much of it is gone forever.” – Thomas Macbride
Introduced Grasses

- Smooth Brome
- Kentucky Bluegrass

Native Grasses

- Big Bluestem
- Side-oats Grama

Root Systems of Prairie Plants
Cereal rye
Prairie clay tile

Pollinator clay tile
Crushed tile
Cool season grasses

Plugged tile – Reed Canary grass
• Weeds getting into crops (Canada thistle)
• Spray drift – damaging plant community
• Tillage – strip getting smaller over time