SUCCESSIONAL DYNAMICS OF NATIVE VEGETATION GROWN IN IRON TAILINGS IN WISCONSIN[1]

by

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Abstract. Field research plots were established to test whether fine alkaline tailings would support a stand of indigenous plant species. State law requires indigenous vegetation on mine sites but still allows short-term use of agronomic species when and where necessary. A factorial design was structured to compare seed mixes, method of placement, mulches, and an amendment. After three growing seasons, successional dynamics demonstrate that stands of agronomic species readily encroach on indigenous stands. Species selection is critical to directing the successional trajectory.

ADDITIONAL KEY WORDS: Taconite, revegetation, direct seeding, compost.

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