WARM SEASON GRASS ESTABLISHMENT (IN ONE YEAR WITHOUT THE WEEDS)

by

Douglas Downing¹

<u>Abstract</u>. Native warm season grasses, big bluestem and indian, were established by the broadcast method on a relatively large area (130 acres) of reclaimed coal surface-mined land in Perry County, Illinois. Existing vegetation was controlled using two quarts of Round-Up and 12 ounces of Plateau per acre the first week of May. Five pounds of pure live seed of both species were applied by airflow using 100 pounds per acre of 0-46-0 and 100 pounds per acre of 0-0-60, primarily to carry the seed. The surface was cultipacked to insure good seed to soil contact. Planting was initiated and completed the last week of June. An estimated ninety-five to one-hundred percent ground cover was evident by mid to late August. By mid September, numerous big blue stem flower/seed stalks were noticeable.

¹Douglas Downing, ARCH Reclamation Services, Inc., CityPlace One, Suite 300, St. Louis, MO 63141-7056.