



Metlakatla

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Local Contacts:

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planting when the Forest Land and Resources team heard of the Rural Village Seed Production Project in 2010. The Metlakatla Indian Community has chosen to discontinue the Lupine harvesting project and pursue the cultivation of Native Plants on lands identified in cooperation with RVSP Staff.

RVSP Initiative:

Three potential sites are being studied. They are:

1. Former trailer court
2. Town lagoon site
3. Experimental / demonstration garden plots

In 2011, Metlakatla Indian Community planted and is nurturing crops of *Calamagrostis canadensis*, Bluejoint Reedgrass and *Deschampsia cespitosa*, Tufted Hairgrass.



Emergent grasses at Metlakatla planting site

Further Information:

For more details about the Rural Village Seed Production Program in Metlakatla, and in communities across Alaska, please visit the R.V.S.P.P. website, at: plants.alaska.gov/rvspp.

Location:

Metlakatla is located on the Annette Island Reserve, about 15 miles south of Ketchikan. The village is the RVSP's southernmost project location.

Cultural Identity:

Learn more about the people of Metlakatla at:

metlakatla.com

Agricultural History:

The Metlakatla Indian Community's Forest Land and Resources team first started growing Alaskan Native Plants on the Island in 2000. Shortly after, wild collections were undertaken as a way to become more familiar with the surrounding plant communities and to become more aware of how to harvest the plants started from seed.

The Metlakatla Indian Community (MIC) was awarded a contract by the United States Forest Service to propagate plants for the Tongass National Forest. Species such as: *Calamagrostis canadensis* (Bluejoint Reedgrass), *Lupinus nootkatensis* (Nootka Lupine) and *Chamerion latifolium* (Dwarf Fireweed) were tried in the early stages of this project. MIC had a 1/10 of an acre plot under cultivation for each species. *Calamagrostis* and *Epilobium* plantings had minimal success and were discontinued.

Due to satisfactory yields and production of seed, MIC expanded the Lupinus plots in the following years. MIC grew and harvested Lupine seed up until 2009. Unfortunately, the *Lupinus Nootkatensis* seemed to stop producing quality seed after about 5 years. The Forest Land and Resources team found that a new planting is required after that time, in order to get the production of seed needed for a viable harvest.

The Metlakatla Indian Community was in the process of re-