



INNOVATION



Anam Cara Rising

Ecological monitoring of biodiverse hedgerow and comparison of compost tea amendment.

SUMMARY:

Anam Cara Rising (formerly Grand River Gardens) will continue monitoring a biodiverse hedgerow planted in 2022. A snow fence was installed to help the seedlings throughout the winter. Saskatoon berries will be planted in 2023 to complete the hedgerows. A foliar application of compost tea will happen to half of the hedgerow to improve pest resistance and plant vigor.

Monitoring will be undertaken to inventory beneficial insects surrounding the hedgerow. Qualitative soil measurements such as soil aggregate stability, infiltration, compaction and green cover monitoring will be compared between hedgerows and other garden spaces. Finally, plant vitality will be compared between compost tea treatments.

SIZE OF TEST AREA

~500m
along fence line

TESTING

- Comparative soil testing (P, K, OM, EC)
- Aggregate stability, infiltration, compaction and green cover monitoring
- Insect count (CVC protocol)
- Plant vitality testing (height, leaf count)

RESEARCH QUESTIONS:

- How can ecological monitoring be used to determine perennial planting success?
- How does compost tea affect the growth of hedgerow plants?