

Native Seeds Work

What is a Native Plant?

The City of Fort Collins defines a native plant as "A plant species that occurs naturally in a particular region, state, ecosystem, and/or habitat without the direct influence of human actions." Our native plants have been here for millions of years and have evolved with our soils and precipitation, allowing them to establish and thrive without much input from humans.

Why Use Native Plants?

Natives provide critical habitat for wildlife and pollinators. Our wildlife and native plants evolved with each other. While wildlife and pollinators use non-native plants, only native plants sustain them in a healthy way and provide larval/adult food sources, crucial nesting sites, and shelter.

Natives preserve our natural landscapes. Natives grow in harmony with other natives providing us and wildlife with beautiful and diverse landscapes. Non-native plants like smooth brome reduce diversity and the quality of habitat by creating monocultures and moving beyond planted sites into natural landscapes.

Seeding natives saves you time and money by eliminating the need to irrigate, and they don't require fertilizers. Plants in natural ecosystems depend on precipitation instead of irrigation. Native live plantings and gardens surrounded by hardscape may require supplemental irrigation.

What to Expect

Native seeds germinate and establish within 2-3 growing seasons. If they do not, check that the mix selected is the correct mix for site and then reseed.

- Expect some bare soil between plants, this is natural for many native plant communities.
- Expect plants to go dormant in hot, dry conditions-they will turn brown but are still alive.
- Expect randomness in your seed plantings. Native plants grow commingled with each other instead of in isolated pockets of the same species.
- Excessive grazing or continual disturbance will not allow plants to establish.

Custom Native Seed Mixes

The City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Department has 25 years of experience developing and testing a variety of native seed mixes. Species selected for these mixes reliably and quickly established in Natural Area restorations, are available from many seed companies and are budget friendly. The mixes are native and custom blended for the Fort Collins Growth Management Area at elevations of 4,800-7,500 feet.

Interested in seeing more native species? Check out the City of Fort Collins Recommended Plant List https://www.fcgov.com/vegetation/ and select "Fort Collins" or "Colorado" under Nativity in the left navigation menu.

UPLAND MIX

- All soil types
- Area is dry majority of growing season

\$143-\$400/acre

MESIC MIX

- All soil types
- Area is periodically moist during growing season

\$207 - \$750/acre

WETLAND MIX

- All soil types
- Area is saturated to 6 inches of standing water for the majority of the growing season \$2,084- \$2,940/acre

ALKALINE MIX

- Soils with a presence of white minteral deposits on surface or in proximity
- Area is dry to saturated for the majoity of the growing season \$149- \$2,843/acre

DETENTION BASIN MIX

- All soil types (blend of Upland and Mesic)
- Low height requires less
 mowing

\$188- \$554/acre

POLLINATOR/RAIN GARDEN

- Sandy-Loam soils
- Area is dry to moist for the majority of the growing season \$305-2,710/acre

Prices will vary due to availability and quantity ordered.

Establishing Native S

SELECT NATIVE SEED MIX

City of Collins

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Choose a pre-formulated native seed mix (see previous page) based on your site conditions.

MEASURE, CALCULATE AND ORDER

Measure the square footage of the site and calculate how much seed you need to purchase. Select a native seed company and let them know which of the native seed mixes you require. They may be able to assist with calculating how much seed you need.

PREPARE SEED BED

It's important for seeds to have a good contact with the soil. Eliminate weeds or other vegetation that might impede soil contact. The soil should be firm. Compacted soil doesn't allow the seed to be placed into the soil; fluffy soil may allow the seed to be planted too deep. There is no need to fertilize. Native plants have evolved with our low-nutrient soils. Fertilizer will benefit non-native weeds more than native plants.

SEEDING

Plant seed on dry, bare ground from late October through early May. Seeds may be planted using a rangeland seed drill or by hand-broadcasting. If using a seed drill, it is best to plant perpendicular on slopes. This will aid in erosion control. Make sure the top inch of soil is not frozen. Plant seeds between $\frac{1}{4}-\frac{1}{2}$ inch deep. Native plants need sunlight to germinate, so planting deeper may inhibit growth. If using the broadcast method, lightly rake the area, evenly spread the seed, and lightly rake the seed in. You want to ensure good seed-to-soil contact so be careful not to bury the seed or cluster it into uneven patterns.

MAINTENANCE

Depending on your site requirements, you may need to mulch, hydromulch or use an erosion control mat.

There is no need to irrigate. Native plants have evolved with our precipitation events. Irrigation will benefit non-native needs more than native plants and will set back the establishment period of native seeds.

Weed control, especially noxious weeds, is important during establishment. Hand pull or spot spray weeds with an herbicide. This helps to limit the amount of herbicide put into the environment and allows the native wildflowers to establish.

Mowing can be beneifical to the establishment of your native seed. Make sure not to mow when conditions are dry and hot. Try not to mow more than once or twice a growing season; any more may stress plants that are trying to establish. It will benefit your project if you allow the plants to flower and seed prior to mowing.

Crystal Strouse, Botanist/Specialist | cstrouse@fcgov.com City of Fort Collins Natural Areas Department

SEED COMPANIES

Arkansas Valley (Denver) avseeds.com 877-907-3337

Granite Seed (Denver) graniteseed.com 720-496-0600

Pawnee Butte Seeds (Greeley) pawneebuttesseed.com 800-782-5947

Western Native Seed (Coaldale) westernnativeseed.com 719-942-3935

Buffalo Brand Seed (Greeley) buffalobrandseed.com 970-356-4710

SEED INSTALLATION

Custom Services of Colorado coloradograssseeder@gmail.com 303-775-0505

Fortress Development Solutions kate.graves@fortressds.com 970-217-9390

Habitat Management Inc. office@habitatmanagementinc.com 303-770-9788

Larimer County Contractor list larimer.gov/naturalresources/ weeds/applicators

For more information Native Plant Revegetation Guide for Colorado cpw.state.co.us/Documents/CNAP/ RevegetationGuide.pdf

City of Fort Collins Recommended Plant List fcgov.com/vegetation



	NATIVE UPLAND SEED MIX		
	Common Name	Scientific Name	lbs PLS/acre
Wildflowers	Purple Prairie Clover	Dalea purpurea	0.81
	Indian blanketflower	Gaillardia aristata	1.85
	Blue flax	Linum lewsii	0.83
	Rocky Mtn. penstemon	Penstemon strictus	0.35
2	Mexican hat	Ratibida columnifera	0.20
	Sideoats Grama	Bouteloua curtipendula	1.15
	Blue Grama	Bouteloua gracilis	0.25
	Buffalograss	Buchloe dactyloides	3.27
~	Inland Saltgrass	Distichlis stricta	0.35
sse	Bottlebrush squirreltail	Elymus elymoides	0.95
Grasses	Indian Ricegrass	Eriocoma hymenoides	1.13
•	Prairie Junegrass	Koeleria macrantha	0.08
	Green Needlegrass	Nassella viridula	1.01
	Switchgrass	Panicum virgatum	0.71
	Sand Dropseed	Sporobolus cryptandrus	0.04
		Total for Mix	12.98
	ACCEPTABLE SUBSTITUTES FOR WILDFLOWERS		
	Fringed sage	Artemisia frigida	0.05
tes	Plains coreopsis	Coreopsis tinctoria	0.17
titu	Prairie aster	Machaeranthera tanacetifolia	0.49
Substitutes	ACCEPTABLE SUBSTITUTES FOR GRASSES		
S	Canada Wild Rye	Elymus canadensis	1.60
	Mountain muhly	Muhlenbergia montana	0.11
	Western Wheatgrass	Pascopyrum smithii	1.61
Requirements	species with the acceptable substitutio project. This mix is based on 70 seeds application. Mix should be doubled if h Please note that the pounds per acre a	Contractor is responsible for locating and purchasing all species listed in mix. If a species can't be located, contractor must replace becies with the acceptable substitutions (listed above). Contractor is responsible for providing seed tags to appropriate City staff, roject. This mix is based on 70 seeds/ square foot and is only calculated for one acre. This mix is based on the contractor using a poplication. Mix should be doubled if hand broadcasted. Contractor is responsible for calculating the appropriate seed amounts to lease note that the pounds per acre are in PLS (Pure Live Seed) and must be ordered that way. All materials furnished shall be tate noxious weeds as defined in Article III, Section 21-40 of the Code of the City of Fort Collins. (CS 2024)	



	NATIVE MESIC SEED MIX		
	Common Name	Scientific Name	lbs PLS/acre
Wildflowers	Marsh sunflower	Helianthus nuttallii	1.12
	Wild bergamont	Monarda fistulosa var. menthifolia	0.17
	Black-eyed Susan	Rudbeckia hirta var. pulcherrima	0.14
	Smooth blue aster	Symphyotrichum laeve var. geyeri	0.24
>	Blue verbena	Verbena hastata	0.15
	Big Bluestem	Andropogon gerardii	1.30
	Blue joint reedgrass	Calamagrostis canadensis	0.04
	Salt and pepper grass	Deschampsia caespitosa	0.07
	Inland Saltgrass	Distichlis stricta	0.35
Grasses	Thickspike wheatgrass	Elymus lanceolatus	1.36
Gra	Switchgrass	Panicum virgatum	0.71
Ŭ	Fowl bluegrass	Poa palustris	0.18
	Little Bluestem	Schizachyrium scoparium	0.70
	Yellow Indiangrass	Sorghastrum nutans	1.38
	Prairie Cordgrass	Spartina pectinata	1.00
		Total for Mix	8.91
	ACCEPTABLE SUBSTITUTES FOR WILDFLOWERS		
	Yarrow	Achillea millefolium	0.09
	Swamp milkweed	Asclepias incarnata	4.07
tes	Showy milkweed	Asclepias speciosa	4.21
titu	Showy fleabane daisy	Erigeron speciosus	0.21
Substitutes	Rocky Mountain iris	Iris missouriensis	11.62
Ñ	ACCEPTABLE SUBSTITUTES FOR GRASSES		
	Giant mannagrass	Glyceria grandis	0.14
	Nuttall's alkali grass	Puccinellia nuttalliana	0.07
	Alkali Sacaton	Sporobolus airoides	0.11
Requirements	*Contractor is responsible for locating and purchasing all species listed in mix. If a species can't be located, contractor must replace each missing specie with the acceptable substitutions (listed above). Contractor is responsible for providing seed tags to appropriate City staff, if required for project. This mix is based on 70 seeds/ square foot and is only calculated for one acre. This mix is based on the contractor using a drill seed application. Mix should be doubled if hand broadcasted. Contractor is responsible for calculating the appropriate seed amounts to purchase. Please note that the pounds per acre are in PLS (Pure Live Seed) and must be ordered that way. All materials furnished shall be free of Colorado State noxious weeds as defined in Article II Section 21-40 of the Code of the City of Fort Collins. (CS 2024)		



		NATIVE ALKALINE SEED MIX	
	Common Name	Scientific Name	lbs PLS/acre
Wildflowers	Indian blanketflower	Gaillardia aristata	1.85
š	Prairie aster	Machaeranthera tanacetifolia	0.49
	Mexican hat	Ratibida columnifera	0.20
N II	Scarlet globemallow	Sphaeralcea coccinea	0.61
_	American vetch	Vicia americana	12.20
	Blue Grama	Bouteloua gracilis	0.25
	Buffalograss	Buchloe dactyloides	3.27
	Inland Saltgrass	Distichlis stricta	0.35
0	Bottlebrush squirreltail	Elymus elymoides	0.95
	Thickspike wheatgrass	Elymus lanceolatus	1.36
5	Green Needlegrass	Nassella viridula	1.01
	Switchgrass	Panicum virgatum	0.71
	Nuttall's alkali grass	Puccinellia nuttalliana	0.07
	Prairie Cordgrass	Spartina pectinata	1.00
	Alkali Sacaton	Sporobolus airoides	0.11
		Total for Mix	24.43
	ACCEPTABLE SUBSTITUTES FOR WILDFLOWERS		
	Yarrow	Achillea millefolium	0.09
	Cudleaf sagewort	Artemisia ludoviciana	0.05
,	Beeplant	Cleomella serrulata	2.16
	Annual sunflower	Helianthus annuus	4.13
	Black-eyed Susan	Rudbeckia hirta var. pulcherrima	0.14
0.000000000000000000000000000000000000	ACCEPTABLE SUBSTITUTES FOR GRASSES		
	Canada Wild Rye	Elymus canadensis	1.60
	Indian Ricegrass	Eriocoma hymenoides	1.13
	Arctic rush	Juncus arcticus var. balticus	0.02
	Western Wheatgrass	Pascopyrum smithii	1.61
	*Contractor is responsible for locating and purchasing all species listed in mix. If a species can't be located, contractor must replace each missing species with the acceptable substitutions (listed above). Contractor is responsible for providing seed tags to appropriate City staff, required for project. This mix is based on 70 seeds/ square foot and is only calculated for one acre. This mix is based on the contractor usi a drill seed application. Mix should be doubled if hand broadcasted. Contractor is responsible for calculating the appropriate seed amounts purchase. Please note that the pounds per acre are in PLS (Pure Live Seed) and must be ordered that way. All materials furnished shall be free of Colorado State noxious weeds as defined in Article III, Section 21-40 of the Code of the City of Fort Collins. (CS 2024)		



	NATIVE WETLAND SEED MIX		
	Common Name	Scientific Name	lbs PLS/acre
Wildflowers	Swamp milkweed	Asclepias incarnata	6.97
	Marsh sunflower	Helianthus nuttallii	1.93
	Pennsylvania smartweed	Persicaria pensylvanica	4.00
	Blue verbena	Verbena hastata	0.26
7	Duck potato	Sagittaria cuneata	0.43
	American sloughgrass	Beckmannia syzigachne	0.35
	Alkali bulrush	Bolboschoenus maritimus ssp. paludosus	1.36
	Nebraska sedge	Carex nebrascensis	0.34
	Fowl mannagrass	Glyceria striata	1.74
Grasses	Arctic rush	Juncus arcticus var. balticus	0.04
Gra	Torrey's rush	Juncus torreyi	0.03
Ŭ	Hardstem bulrush	Schoenoplectus acutus	0.78
	Common three-square	Schoenoplectus pungens	0.78
	Panicled bulrush	Scirpus microcarpus	0.04
	Prairie Cordgrass	Spartina pectinata	1.71
		Total for Mix	20.76
	ACCEPTABLE SUBSTITUTES FOR WILDFLOWERS		
	Double up on 1-2 species in mix	ζ.	
	Joe Pye weed	Eutrochium maculatum	0.31
	Wild bergamont	Monarda fistulosa var. menthifolia	0.30
	Black-eyed Susan	Rudbeckia hirta var. pulcherrima	0.25
utes	Duck potato	Sagittaria latifolia	0.43
Substitutes	ACCEPTABLE SUBSTITUTES FOR GRASSES /GRASSLIKES		
Sub	Blue joint reedgrass	Calamagrostis canadensis	0.07
	Wooly sedge	Carex pellita	1.33
	Clustered sedge	Carex praegracilis	0.17
	Giant mannagrass	Glyceria grandis	0.25
	Softstem bulrush	Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani	0.57
	Sea arrowgrass	Triglochin maritima	0.67
Requirements	*Contractor is responsible for locating and purchasing all species listed in mix. If a species can't be located, contractor must replace each missing species with the acceptable substitutions (listed above). Contractor is responsible for providing seed tags to appropriate City staff, if required for project. This mix is based on 120 seeds/ square foot and is only calculated for one acre. This mix is based on the contractor using a broadcast seed application. Contractor is responsible for calculating the appropriate seed amounts to purchase. Please note that the pounds per acre are in PLS (Pure Live Seed) and must be ordered that way. All materials furnished shall be free of Colorado State noxious weeds as defined in Article III, Section 21-40 of the Code of the City of Fort Collins. (CS 2024)		



	NATIVE DETENTION BASIN SEED MIX		
	Common Name	Scientific Name	lbs PLS/acre
Wildflowers	White prairie clover	Dalea candida var. oligophylla	0.65
	Purple Prairie Clover	Dalea purpurea	0.81
	Indian blanketflower	Gaillardia aristata	1.85
	Prairie aster	Machaeranthera tanacetifolia	0.49
2	Stiff greenthread	Thelesperma filifolium	0.96
	Sideoats Grama	Bouteloua curtipendula	1.15
	Blue Grama	Bouteloua gracilis	0.25
	Buffalograss	Buchloe dactyloides	3.27
	Inland Saltgrass	Distichlis stricta	0.35
sses	Bottlebrush squirreltail	Elymus elymoides	0.95
Grasses	Indian Ricegrass	Eriocoma hymenoides	1.13
$\overline{}$	Prairie Junegrass	Koeleria macrantha	0.08
	Little Bluestem	Schizachyrium scoparium	0.70
	Alkali Sacaton	Sporobolus airoides	0.11
	Sand Dropseed	Sporobolus cryptandrus	0.04
	-	Total for Mix	12.79
	ACCEPTABLE SUBSTITUTES FOR WILDFLOWERS		
	Fringed sage	Artemisia frigida	0.05
	Plains coreopsis	Coreopsis tinctoria	0.17
es	Blue flax	Linum lewsii	0.83
itut	Black-eyed Susan	Rudbeckia hirta var. pulcherrima	0.14
Substitutes	Scarlet globemallow	Sphaeralcea coccinea	0.61
S	ACCEPTABLE SUBSTITUTES FOR GRASSES		
	Salt and pepper grass	Deschampsia caespitosa	0.07
	Idaho fescue	Festuca idahoensis	0.41
	Rocky Mountain fescue	Festuca saximontana	0.35
Requirements	missing species with the acceptable s required for project. This mix is based drill seed application. Mix should be do purchase. Please note that the pounds	and purchasing all species listed in mix. If a species can't be located, contracto ubstitutions (listed above). Contractor is responsible for providing seed tags to a on 70 seeds/ square foot and is only calculated for one acre. This mix is based bubled if hand broadcasted. Contractor is responsible for calculating the appropriate per acre are in PLS (Pure Live Seed) and must be ordered that way. All mate as defined in Article III, Section 21-40 of the Code of the City of Fort Collins. (C	appropriate City staff, if on the contractor using a priate seed amounts to prials furnished shall be

	NATIVI	E POLLINATOR/ RAIN GARDEN SEED MIX	
	Common Name	Scientific Name	lbs PLS/acre
	Prickly poppy	Argemone polyanthemos	0.90
	Rocky mountain beeplant	Cleome serrulata	0.80
	White prairie clover	Dalea candida	0.50
	Purple prairie clover	Dalea purpurea	1.00
	Engelmann's daisy	Engelmannia peristenia	1.10
	Sulfurflower	Eriogonum umbellatum	0.25
	Joe pye weed	Eutorochium maculatum	0.25
s	Blanketflower	Gaillardia aristata	1.20
ver	Foothills/Prairie sunflower	Helianthus pumilus	0.90
Wildflowers	Dotted gayfeather	Liatris punctata	0.60
/ild	Blue flax	Linum lewisii	1.00
M	Tansyleaf aster	Machaeranthera tanacetifolia	0.50
	Stemless evening primrose	Oenothera caespitosa	1.50
	Rocky mountain penstemon	Penstemon strictus	0.50
	Prairie coneflower	Ratibida columnifera	0.40
	Mexican hat	Ratibida columnifera pulchra	0.10
	Black-eyed susan	Rudbeckia hirta	0.10
	Scarlet globemallow	Sphaeralcea coccinea	0.50
	Blue aster	Symphyotrichum laeve	0.20
	Sideoats grama	Bouteloua curtipendula	0.75
	Blue Grama	Bouteloua gracilis	0.80
SS	Sand dropseed	Sporobolus cryptandrus	0.05
Grasses	Sand bluestem	Andropogon hallii	1.50
Gr	Indian ricegrass	Achnatherum hymenoides	1.00
	Bottlebrush squirreltail	Elymus elymoides	1.00
	Junegrass	Koeleria macrantha	0.10
		Total for Mix	17.50
		EPTABLE SUBSTITUTES FOR WILDFLOWERS	
	Wild bergamont	Monarda fistulosa	0.25
	Showy milkweed	Asclepias speciosa	1.50
	Missouri goldenrod	Solidago missouriensis	0.30
	Hairy goldenaster	Heterotheca villosa	1.50
SS	Showy fleabane daisy Annual sunflower	Erigeron speciosus Helianthus annuus	0.50 2.50
Substitutes	Stiff greenthread	Thelesperma filifolium	1.00
bsti	American vetch	Vicia americana	4.00
Su	Plains coreopsis	Coreopsis tinctoria	0.30
	ACCEPTABLE SUBSTITUTES FOR GRASSES		
	Switchgrass	Panicum virgatm	0.50
	Little bluestem	Schizachyrium scoparium	1.25
	Green needlegrass	Nasella viridula	0.60
	Rocky mountain fescue	Festuca saximontana	0.15
Requirements	Note: All materials furnished shall be free of Colorado State Noxious Weeds as defined in Article III, Section 21-40 of the Code of the City of Fort Collins. This mix is based on 130 seeds/ft2 and is only calculated for one acre; contractor is responsible for calculating the appropriate seed amounts to purchase. Substituted species can be doubled for one or two species that are in the original mix. Entire mix may be drill seeded to a depth of 1/4 inch deep. If hydroseeding occurs, seed must not be mixed with a mulch for application. They must be applied in two passes: first pass seed, second pass mulch. * PLS = Pure Live Seed.		