

# Floodplain Mixture



**Contains:** [Western Wheatgrass](#), Virginia Wildrye, [Big Bluestem](#), [Canada Wildrye](#), [Switchgrass](#) and Fox Sedge. This mixture may also contain [Prairie Cordgrass](#) and Red Top upon request.

## Characteristics

- Grasses are all deep rooted for greater tolerance of standing water and dry periods
- All species are well adapted to varying soil types
- Species have excellent tolerance to standing water from 14-60 days
- Will tolerate seasonal dry and hot periods

## Seeding Information

Seeding Rates: 20 PLS Lbs per acre – Increase rate when wet conditions require broadcast seeding  
Seeding Dates: April – July      *Dormant Seeding:* November – March  
Germination Times: 14-28 Days (as a mix)

## Seeding Method

Drill seeding is the best method for seeding this mixture. If wet conditions exist, broadcast, then work seed into soil as best as possible. If erodible areas exist, consider covering the seeded area with an erosion control blanket or mulch.

## Uses

- Floodplains
- Shorelines
- Reclamation Areas
- Conservation Areas

### ***Mixture composition (20 Bulk LBS per Acre)***

<b>WESTERN WHEATGRASS</b>	<b>35.00%</b>
<b>VIRGINIA WILDRYE</b>	<b>27.00%</b>
<b>BIG BLUESTEM</b>	<b>18.00%</b>
<b>CANADA WILDRYE</b>	<b>12.00%</b>
<b>SWITCHGRASS</b>	<b>5.00%</b>
<b>FOX SEDGE</b>	<b>3.00%</b>





## **General Seeding Guidelines**

### **A. SEED TIMING**

- a. Seed from April 15 to June 15
- b. August 10 to October 15
- c. Dormant seed after November 15

### **B. SITE PREPARATION FOR BARE GROUND APPLICATION**

- a. Conduct one soil test per acre to determine soil additives needed
- b. Ensure soil pH is between 6.0 and 7.0
- c. Eliminate existing vegetation
  - i. Spray with non-selective herbicide
  - ii. Remove dead vegetation through mechanical means
- d. Add recommended soil amendments, pH adjustment materials, and fertilizer
- e. Till soil to a 4-6 inch depth
- f. Remove rocks and debris larger than one inch diameter
- g. Pulverize and lightly roll soil
- h. Apply 1 lb phosphorous (P) (2.27 lbs P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>) / 1000 ft<sup>2</sup> to soil surface

### **C. SITE PREPARATION FOR INTERSEEDING/OVERSEEDING**

- a. Conduct one soil test per acre to determine if soil additives are needed
- b. Ensure soil pH is between 6.0 and 7.0
- c. If existing vegetation in the area to be seeded is higher than 1-2 feet, consider mowing to minimize inter-seeding difficulties
- d. Remove any debris or weeds that are seeded out

### **D. SEEDING METHOD**

- a. Seeding method is based on slope and soil at site
- b. Broadcast-, drop-, slit-, or drill-seed flat areas where erosion is not a concern
  - i. Seed should be planted 0.125 to 0.25 inches below soil surface
  - ii. Plant two directions putting ½ of seed down each direction
  - iii. Gently roll or rake seeded area to ensure good soil-to-seed contact
- c. If broadcast seeding, the area should be gone over with a drag (chain link fence, tooth harrow) to achieve greater seed-to-soil contact
- d. If drill seeding, a no-till drill is recommended to slice the seed into the soil to achieve good seed-to-soil contact
- e. Hydro-seed steep slopes where erosion is a concern
  - i. When hydro-seeding, broadcast ½ of the seed before hydro-seed mixture is applied and place ½ of the seed in hydro-seed mixture

### **E. WATERING REQUIREMENTS**

- a. Water to field capacity immediately after seeding
  - b. The first three weeks after seeding, keep top 1.5 inches of soil moist\*
  - c. Weeks four through six after seeding, water 3-4 times per week
  - d. After six weeks, water when grass begins to show draught stress
- \*Number of times to water per day depends on temperature, humidity, wind, and rainfall

### **F. FERTILIZING & MOWING**

- a. Fertilize seeded area with 0.5 lbs nitrogen (N) / 1000 ft<sup>2</sup> 1, 2, and 3 months after initial seeding, then begin a regular fertilizer schedule
- b. Mow when grass is one inch longer than desired grass height but do not remove more than 1/3 of grass blade (i.e. mow when grass is 4 inches tall if desired height is 3 inches)