

# Native Prairiegrass Mixture

**Contains:** [Big Bluestem](#), [Little Bluestem](#), [Indiangrass](#), [Canada Wildrye](#), [Virginia Wildrye](#), [Western Wheatgrass](#), [Switchgrass](#), [Sideoats Grama](#) and oats as a cover crop.

## Characteristics

- Combination of 5 Native Warm Season Grasses and 3 Cool Season Grasses
- Warm Season Grasses Are Generally Slow to Establish
- Plant Foliage Turns Various Colors in the Fall
- Grasses Have Deep and Extensive Root Systems

## Seeding Information

*Seeding Rates:* 25 Lbs per acre (drilled seeded) 37.50 Lbs per acre (broadcast or dormant seeded)

*Seeding Dates:* May – July *Dormant Seed:* November – March

*Germination Times:* 5 Days – Oats, 10-28 Days – Native Grasses as a mix

## Description

**Native Prairiegrass Mixture** is made up of the 5 native warm season grasses that inhabited our area when originally settled by the early pioneers. Canada and Virginia Wildrye, as well as Western Wheatgrass are cool season grasses. This mixture provides an excellent seeding combination for all types of areas. The warm season grasses need warm soil to germinate, therefore, seeding should be done after the first of May.

## Uses

- Conservation Areas
- Acreages
- Outline Areas on Commercial Sites
- Golf Course Borders
- Parks
- Urban Conservation Areas



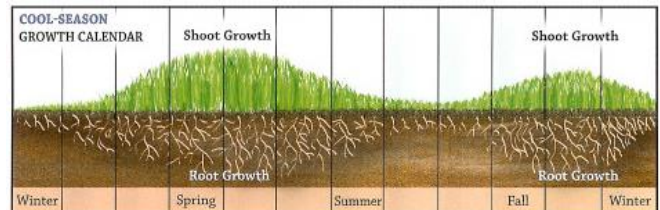
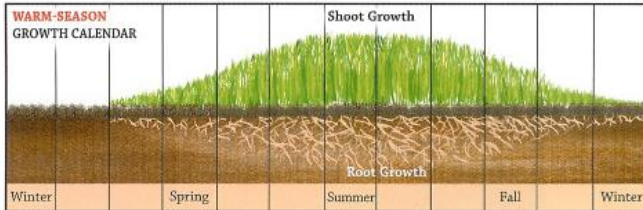
### Seed Mixture as Percent of PLS Pounds

<b>SEED OATS</b>	<b>50.00%</b>
<b>BIG BLUESTEM</b>	<b>15.00%</b>
<b>LITTLE BLUESTEM</b>	<b>9.00%</b>
<b>INDIANGRASS</b>	<b>8.00%</b>
<b>WESTERN WHEATGRASS</b>	<b>6.00%</b>
<b>VIRGINIA WILDRYE</b>	<b>3.00%</b>
<b>CANADA WILDRYE</b>	<b>3.00%</b>
<b>SWITCHGRASS</b>	<b>3.00%</b>
<b>SIDEOATS GRAMA</b>	<b>3.00%</b>

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## Establishment

**Planting Time** – Native grasses establish best in early spring from mid March to mid July. This is the time when soil moisture is more abundant and temperatures are cooler. Dormant seeding is another option granted the soil is not frozen. As a general rule, dormant seeding can be done after three hard freezes. Because there are both warm and cool season native grasses within the same mixture, assume planting dates as you would with warm season grasses.



**Site Preparation** – Preparing a good seedbed will ensure good seed to soil contact and provide for a good growing environment. Loosen the soil to a depth of 3 to 4 inches by raking, tilling or plowing. Remove excess weeds and debris. The final seedbed should be smooth, free of large clumps and firm.

**Seed Application** – The most efficient method of seeding is drill seeding. This method places the seed down in the soil where the moisture lies and is best for seed to soil contact. Applying the seed with a cyclone spreader can also be used for larger areas, and hand broadcast for smaller areas. When broadcasting seed, raking the seed into the soil and tamping the soil after application is needed for the seed to have contact with that soil as well as being where the moisture is.

**Mulching** – For improved moisture retention, mulching is encouraged. Straw or other well insulating organic matter laid out to a maximum depth of 1/4 inch will give the seedlings protection from wind.

**Weed Control** – Weeds grow and establish quicker than grass plants, and rob precious moisture away from young seedlings. Mowing the competing weed before they seed out is perhaps the best method. Herbicide application can also be applied when the plants have reached maturity. Even then, this can take up to 6 to 8 months for the native grasses to mature. If wildflowers are in the mixture, herbicides should not be used.

**Establishment Time** – Under ideal growing conditions, grass growth should occur in 4 to 6 weeks, with full development occurring in 6 to 8 months. Native grasses need time and good cultural practices to look as they do in their natural, native environment. In time native grass habitats offer the ultimate low maintenance environment, weed control and habitats for wildlife.