



# NATIVE SEED MIX RECOMMENDATIONS

FOR RESIDENTIAL AREAS WITH  
WELL DRAINED SOILS IN LUCAS COUNTY, OH

THIS GUIDANCE IS MEANT TO BE REFERENCED BY CONTRACTORS AND LANDOWNERS WORKING  
TO VEGETATE RIPARIAN (STREAMSIDE) BUFFER STRIPS AND CONSERVATION AREAS ALONG WATERWAYS.

## WHY PLANT NATIVES?

PLANTING RIPARIAN BUFFERS WITH APPROPRIATE NATIVE SEED (FORBS AND GRASSES) CAN  
PROVIDE MORE BENEFIT TO THE PROPERTY OWNER'S INTERESTS AND AREA WILDLIFE COMPARED  
TO TURF GRASS AND RELATED SPECIES.

## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

- **IMPROVEMENT IN WATER QUALITY**

Native plants can reduce the amount pollutants (e.g., nutrients – nitrogen and phosphorus) in surface water by filtering runoff and absorbing nutrients before they enter a waterway

- **REDUCTIONS IN LONG-TERM MAINTENANCE OF BUFFER STRIP**

Little to no watering or fertilizer needed  
Minimal mowing needed in an established area

- **BEAUTIFUL LANDSCAPE**

If designed for a specific region, native seed mixes contain a wide variety of flowering plants that provide blooms throughout the growing season. Continuous and diverse blooms create a beautiful buffer area, whether it borders an active agricultural field or suburban backyard.

- **ATTRACTION OF NATIVE WILDLIFE**

Native wildlife has evolved together with native plants so they are well-suited to provide for each other's needs (e.g., food, protection, pollination, etc.)

- **PROMOTION OF REGIONAL NATIVE BIODIVERSITY**

The absence of native vegetation cover is a major factor in the decline of many animal and insect species in Northwest Ohio

- **REDUCTIONS IN SOIL EROSION**

Many native plants have longer root systems compared to turf grasses; these longer roots help to keep soil in place during wet weather events

**SEE BACK PAGE FOR RECOMMENDED MAINTENANCE,  
SUGGESTED SEED MIX, AND AREA RESOURCES.**

# SUGGESTED SEED MIX

## SUGGESTED SEED MIX FOR RESIDENTIAL BUFFER AREAS WITH WELL DRAINED (DRY) SOILS

OHIO PRAIRIE NURSERY (OPN) ITEM #031820-2\*

- EXPECTED HEIGHT RANGE: 3FT TO 4FT
- DOES WELL IN AREAS OF SUN/PARTIAL SHADE
- ATTRACTS BUTTERFLIES, POLLINATORS, AND SONGBIRDS
- SEEDING RATE: HYDRO SEEDED / BROADCAST / DRILLED - 7 POUNDS PER ACRE

Species Name	Common Name	%
<i>Elymus canadensis</i>	Nodding Wild Rye	31.25%
<i>Elymus virginicus</i>	Virginia Wild Rye	26.56%
<i>Chamaecrista fasciculata</i>	Partridge Pea	18.13%
<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	Black-eyed Susan	7.81%
<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>	Ox Eye Sunflower	4.69%
<i>Lupinus perennis</i>	Perennial Lupine	3.12%
<i>Agrostis perennans</i>	Autumn Bentgrass	1.56%
<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	Wild Bergamot	1.25%
<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	Butterfly Weed	1.25%
<i>Rudbeckia triloba</i>	Brown-eyed Susan	0.94%
<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>	Foxglove Beardtongue	0.63%
<i>Ratibida pinnata</i>	Yellow Coneflower/Grey-Headed C	0.63%
<i>Liatris spicata</i>	Dense Blazingstar	0.63%
<i>Zizia aurea</i>	Golden Alexanders	0.63%
<i>Aster laevis</i>	Smooth Aster	0.31%
<i>Aster azureus</i>	Sky Blue Aster	0.31%
<i>Solidago nemoralis</i>	Dwarf Goldenrod	0.31%

DISCLAIMER: OPN DESIGNED THIS SEED MIX SPECIFICALLY FOR LUCAS COUNTY AND THE NORTHWEST OHIO REGION. THIS MIX IS PROVIDED HERE AS OPTION/EXAMPLE AND IS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE THROUGH OPN. CONTRACTORS AND PROPERTY OWNERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CONSIDER THIS MIX WHEN MAKING THEIR SELECTION. COMPARABLE SEED MIXES MAY BE AVAILABLE FROM OTHER VENDORS BUT IT IS SUGGESTED THAT LANDOWNERS CONSULT WITH LUCAS SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT TO EVALUATE MIX SUITABILITY FOR LOCAL CONDITIONS.

LUCAS COUNTY  
Storm Water Utility



## RECOMMENDED SEEDING METHODS:

- Fall is best because the seeds will be going through their natural cycle of cold, moist conditions resulting in faster germination. If planted in the spring, some species will germinate that year, but some will delay until they have those cold, moist conditions resulting in later germination - often the following spring. **Good seed to soil contact is preferred for higher germination rates.**

## RECOMMENDED MAINTENANCE:

- **First Year Management:** Periodic mowing and/or selective removal of targeted undesirable plants
- **Long-term Management:** Mow once in spring and then leave tall throughout fall, winter, and early spring (Native wildlife will lay eggs and/or hibernate in dormant vegetation)

## AREA RESOURCES:

Lucas Soil & Water Conservation District: [lucasswcd.org](http://lucasswcd.org)

Ohio Prairie Nursery: [opnseed.com](http://opnseed.com)

Greater Toledo Lake Erie Clear Choices Clean Water: [toledolakeerie.clearchoicescleanwater.org](http://toledolakeerie.clearchoicescleanwater.org)

## PLANTING METHODS:

- **Drill Seeding** (recommended for best seed to soil contact)
- **Broadcast Seeding** (some type of light tillage or culti-packing for soil preparation required; most cost-effective)
- **Hydroseeding** (most expensive)