

Save Water...Save Labor...Save Money

Why Buffalograss?

The North Platte NRD's Buffalograss Seed program provides residential homeowners within the District reimbursement of seed purchase costs for converting their existing irrigated lawns to Buffalograss—saving precious water, lawn maintenance time and costs on their yards.

Water Savings! Buffalograss is a drought-hardy, native grass species that thrives on only 1/2 inch of water per week. Most other turf grasses use between 1 to 1 1/2 inches per week.

Labor and Time Savings!

Buffalograss does well on hot, dry sites where bluegrass or ornamental landscaping dies out. Buffalograss grows slowly to a maximum height of three to six inches, reducing the need for mowing to once every two to three weeks.

Money Savings! Buffalograss, once established, requires less water, less mowing and less fertilizer than blue grass lawns. Buffalograss can be maintained with no mowing if weeds are controlled.

Participants can receive reimbursement of up to \$13 per pound for Bowie or Cody brands of buffalograss seed purchased to convert up to 7,500 square feet of established lawn. Maximum reimbursement is \$292 per person per year. Reimbursement will be based on the recommended seeding rate of 3 pounds per 1,000 square feet.

This program is open to all homeowners in Scotts Bluff, Morrill, Garden, Banner or southern Sioux Counties who want to convert their present irrigated turf grass to buffalograss. Application deadline for this program is May 1 of each year.

Ideal planting time is between Memorial Day and July 4th. A homeowner can do their own site preparation and seeding or hire a contractor.



Who Is Eligible To Participate?

Applicants must:

- * Own a home and have an existing irrigated lawn in Scotts Bluff, Morrill, Garden, Banner or southern Sioux Counties. The program for converting existing lawns only and is not available for any first-time seeding.

- * Agree to plant the seed at the NRD's recommended seeding rate of 3 pounds per 1,000 square feet.

- * Submit all receipts related to the purchase of either Bowie or Cody brands of buffalograss. Receipts must include business name where the seed was purchased, date, quantity of seed

and variety (either Bowie or Cody). Rebates are issued only for projects that are approved in advance.

- * Replace irrigated lawn area with buffalograss seed.

Allow an NRD technician to conduct a post-seeding inspection of the site.

- * Agree to keep a small yard sign in the project area to identify the site for a minimum of two years and have your address included on a list of project participants that will be available to the public for viewing.

- * Agree to maintain your buffalograss seeding for at least five years, unless the property is sold.

NOTE: You should anticipate some presence of weeds during the first year of buffalograss establishment. Once the buffalograss is strongly established the presence of weeds will lessen. Expect two to three years for a full buffalograss establishment. The program requires that you provide for the maintenance and growth of your buffalograss lawn for at least five years.

www.nprnd.org/buffalograss.htm



Buffalograss Seed

2009

*“A Great Idea
for Saving Water
& Promoting Native
High Plains Landscaping”*

**A Cost-Share Program
to Help Western
Nebraska Homeowners
Use Water-Saving
Turfgrass Varieties**



P.O. Box 280, Scottsbluff, NE 69363-0280
(308) 632-2749

How Do I Participate?

Step 1: Complete the attached application form and mail it to the North Platte NRD, P.O. Box 280, Scottsbluff, NE 69363-0280 or deliver it to the office located at 100547 Airport Road in Scottsbluff during business hours. Application deadline is May 1 of each program year.

Step 2: NRD approval for reimbursement will be given on a first come, first-served basis subject to availability of funds. Applicants will meet with an NRD technician and receive an information packet detailing how to properly prepare the seed bed and plant the seed at a recommended seeding rate of 3 pounds per 1,000 square feet.

Step 3: Purchase either Bowie or Cody brands of buffalograss from any area seed dealer and keep all receipts related to the purchase of seed.

Step 4: Site preparation: To convert an existing irrigated bluegrass lawn, first kill the existing grass by spraying with glyphosate and roto till the area; **OR** by using a sod cutter to remove the turf and prepare the seedbed. Wait five days for the vegetation to die then water and fertilize the area with a high-phosphate starter fertilizer. Let it dry and roto-till it again. Firm any loose soil by rolling or water the area slowly to let the soil settle. Rake smooth. Contact the NPNRD or UN-L Research and Extension Center for more detailed instructions, or hire a contractor to do the site preparation for you.

Step 5: Seeding: For best results, seeding should be done during the month of June. Broadcast buffalograss seed evenly and keep the new seeding well watered for the first 10 days after seeding to ensure proper germination. Seeding can also be done by a contractor.

Step 6: Submit within 60 days all receipts related to the purchase of buffalograss seed to the North Platte NRD office in Scottsbluff. (Reimbursement is for seed ONLY).

Step 7: Maintain your new seeding throughout the month of July by keeping it damp until the grass reaches full maturity. Early mowing will help thicken up the stand. Schedule a post-planting inspection with NRD staff and erect your lawn sign indicating yours is a newly converted buffalograss lawn.

North Platte NRD Buffalograss Application Form

(To be completed by property owner)

Homeowner's Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Daytime Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Estimated square footage of lawn to be converted to buffalograss: _____

The NRD will reimburse up to \$13 per pound for seed purchased to convert up to 7,500 square feet of established lawn, not to exceed a total of \$292 per applicant. Reimbursement will be based on the recommended seeding rate of 3 pounds per 1,000 square feet. Application deadline for this program is May 1 of each year.

Physical address where lawn is to be replaced: _____

PARTICIPANT'S AGREEMENT: *I agree I will purchase and plant only the brands of buffalograss recommended by the North Platte NRD (Bowie or Cody). I agree that the North Platte NRD is not responsible for the survival of my buffalograss seed. I agree that I have read and understood the Buffalograss seed program provisions and restrictions outlined in this brochure, visited with an NRD technician about the proper planting and care of my buffalograss seed and will provide for its proper seeding and care. Seeding will be performed at the recommended rate of 3 pounds per 1,000 square feet and I will maintain the re-established buffalograss lawn for a minimum of five years unless my property is sold prior to that time.*

Participant _____ Date _____

APPLICATION APPROVAL:

The North Platte NRD staff approves the Applicant's Request for reimbursement of seed costs under this program.

NRD Staff _____ Date _____

PAYMENT CERTIFICATION:

Total square feet seeded (7,500 sq. ft max.): _____

Pounds of seed used (seeding rate 3 lbs/1,000 sq. ft.) _____

TOTAL REIMBURSEMENT (Area seeded X amount of seed X \$13) = _____

NRD Staff _____ Date _____

POST INSPECTION by _____ Date _____