



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.

- **MONEY SAVINGS**
 - Buffalograss, once established, requires less water, less mowing and less fertilizer than bluegrass lawns. Buffalograss can even be maintained with no mowing if weeds are controlled.
- **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.
- **WATER SAVINGS**
 - Buffalograss is a drought-hardy, native grass species that thrives on only ½ inch of water per week. Most other turf grasses use between 1 to 1 ½ inches per week.

How do I participate?

Step 1: Complete the 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 **June 15**.

Step 2: NRD approval for reimbursement will be given on a first come, first-serve basis subject to availability of funds.

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

Step 4: Site preparation.

Step 5: Seeding.

Step 6: Submit all related receipts within 60 days of your buffalograss seed purchase to the North Platte NRD office in Scottsbluff. (Reimbursement is for seed **ONLY**. Participants will receive up to \$15 per pound on a max of 15,000 square feet.)

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 receive your lawn sign.



(All pictures courtesy of Harry Warren)

Buffalograss Seed

A cost-share program to help Western Nebraska homeowners use water-saving turf grass varieties.



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 is only for converting existing lawns and is not available for first-time seeding.
- Agree to plant the seed at the NRD's recommended seeding rate of 2-3 pounds per 1,000 square feet
- Submit all receipts related to the purchase of either Bowie, Sundancer or Cody varieties of buffalograss. Receipts must include the business name, where the seed was purchased, date, quantity of seed and variety (either Bowie, Sundancer or Cody). Rebates are only issued for projects that have been approved in advance.
- Replace their irrigated lawn area with buffalograss seed and 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 allow their address to be included on a list of project participants available for public viewing.
- Agree to maintain their buffalograss seeding for at least five years, unless the property is sold during that timeframe.

Reimbursement:

Participants can receive up to \$15 per pound for Bowie Sundancer, or Cody varieties of buffalograss seed purchased to convert up to 15,000 square feet of established lawn. Maximum reimbursement is \$674 per person per year. Reimbursement will be based on the recommended seeding rate of 2-3 pounds per 1,000 square feet.



Site Preparation:

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

1. To convert an existing irrigated bluegrass lawn, first kill the existing grass by spraying with glyphosate then rototilling the area; **OR** by using a sod cutter to remove the turf and prepare the seedbed.
2. Wait five days for the vegetation to die then water and fertilize the area with a high-phosphate starter fertilizer.
3. Let it dry and rototill it again.
4. Firm any loose soil by rolling or watering the area slowly to let the soil settle. Rake smooth.

*For more detailed instructions, contact the NPNRD or JNL Research and Extension Center.



Seeding:

Evenly broadcast the buffalograss seed in your yard. Make sure to keep the new seeding well watered for the first 10 days afterwards to ensure proper germination.

***Please note that overwatering can be highly detrimental to buffalograss.**

WEEDS

Don't panic if you are experiencing weeds after planting your new buffalograss lawn. Weeds should be anticipated during the first year of a new buffalograss establishment. Once the buffalograss is strongly established, the presence of weeds will lessen. Expect two to three years before the buffalograss is fully established. The program requires that you do provide for the maintenance and growth of your buffalograss lawn for at least five years.

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 \$15 per pound for seed purchased to convert up to 15,000 square feet of established lawn, not to exceed a total of \$674 per applicant. Reimbursement will be based on the recommended seeding rate of 2-3 pounds per 1,000 square feet. Application deadline is June 15.

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, Sundancer 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 understand the buffalograss seed program provisions and restrictions outlined in the informative brochure and have 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 2-3 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.

Approved by: _____ Date: _____

Payment Certification:

Total square feet seeded (15,000 sq. ft. max.): _____

Pounds of seed used x .003 (2 lbs./1000 sq. ft. min. OR 3 lbs./1,000 sq. ft. max.): _____

TOTAL REIMBURSEMENT (Area seeded x pounds of seed x \$15): _____

Approved by: _____ Date: _____

POST INSPECTION by: _____ Date: _____

