



## 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 brands 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.)

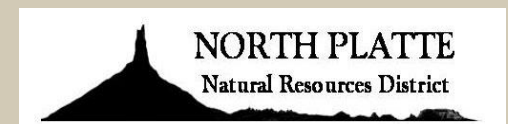
**Step 7: Maintain** your new seeding throughout the month of July by keeping it damp until the grass reaches full maturity. Early mowing will help thicken up the stand. Schedule a post-planting inspection with NRD staff and receive your lawn sign.



*(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 or Cody brands of buffalograss. Receipts must include the business name, where the seed was purchased, date, quantity of seed and variety (either Bowie 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 or Cody brands 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 4<sup>th</sup>.

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 UNL 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.