

TURF ALTERNATIVE SEED MIXES

Created by Benton Conservation District www.bentoncd.org January 2026

Vendor Name	Seed Mix	Water Needs	Native to WA	Growth Height	Mowing	Tolerant of Grazing	Heritage Garden	Carriable	Best time to Sow
Lawn Like Mixes									
Earthwise Seed Company	Fireguard Lawn Native Mix - Fire-Resistant Turf	Very Low	N	4-8"	Monthly	Y	N		May-July
Great Basin Seed	Blue Grama	Very Low	N	4-8"	Seasonally	Y	N		May-July
Pheasants Forever	PF Western Native Turf Mix	Very Low	Y	4-18"	Seasonally	Y	N		Oct-March
Western Reclamation INC	<i>Request Custom Grass Mix - Sand Dropseed, Sandberg Bluegrass, Prairie Junegrass, Idaho Fescue, Native Yarrow</i>	NWOE	Y	4-18"	Seasonally	Y	Y		Oct-March
BFI Native Seeds	<i>Request Custom Grass Mix - Sand Dropseed, Sandberg Bluegrass, Prairie Junegrass, Idaho Fescue, Native Yarrow</i>	NWOE	Y	4-18"	Seasonally	Y	Y		Oct-March
Earthwise Seed Company	Low Grow™ No-Mow Lawn Mix – Clover & Low-Maintenance Grass Alternative	Low	N	<4"	no need	N	N		Oct-March
Earthwise Seed Company	Thyme for a Change - Red Creeping Thyme Seed	Low	N	<4"	no need	N	N		March-June
High Country Gardens	Alternative Lawn Wildflower Seed Mix	Mod	N	4-12"	Seasonally	Y	N		Oct-March
Northwest Meadowsclapes	Nearly Native Bee Lawn Seed Mix	Mod	N	4-8"	no need	N	N		Oct-March
Northwest Meadowsclapes	Pollinator Lawn Conversion Mix	Mod	N	4-8"	Seasonally	N	N		Oct-March
Plants of the Wild	Water-less lawn Mix	Mod	Y	1-3 ft	Seasonally	Y	N		Oct-March
PT Lawn Seed	PT 770 Water Less Eco-Lawn Mix	Mod	N	4-12"	Monthly	Y	N		March-June
PT Lawn Seed	PT 764 Verdant Lawn	Mod	N	4-12"	Monthly	Y	N		March-June
BFI Native Seeds	BFI NATIVE TURF MIX	High	Y	4-12"	Seasonally	Y	N		Oct-March
Pollinator Meadow Mixes -- Include grasses and wildflowers to support pollinators.									
BFI Native Seeds	<i>Request Custom Wildflower Mix - Oregon Sunshine, Silverleaf Phacelia, Lewis Flax, Western Yarrow, Douglas Dustymaiden, Wyeth's Buckwheat, Shaggy Fleabane, Hoary Tansyaster, Munro's Globemallow, Snow Buckwheat, Sandberg's Bluegrass</i>	NWOE	Y	4-12"	Seasonally	Y	Y		Oct-March
Tapteal Native Plants	Bulk Seed Mix - Erosion Control	NWOE	Y	1-5 ft	Seasonally	Y	Y		Oct-March
BFI Native Seeds	<i>Request Custom Wildflower Mix - Idaho Fescue, Sandberg Bluegrass, Bluebunch Wheatgrass, Sand Dropseed, Yellow Bee Plant, Showy Milkweed, Hoary Tansyaster, Silverleaf Phacelia, Western Yarrow, Lewis Blue Flax, Annual Sunflower</i>	Low	Y	1- 5 ft	Seasonally	Y	Y		Oct-March
Great Basin Seeds	All Native Western Wildflower Seed Mix	Low	Y/N	4-18"	Seasonally	Y	Partial		Oct-March
Pheasants Forever	WA PF Native Pollinator Mix	Low	Y/N	4-20"	Seasonally	Y	Partial		Oct-March

Pheasants Forever	WA PF Monarch Native Pollinator Mix	High	Y/N	1-6 ft	Seasonally	Y	Partial	Oct-March
Tapteal Native Plants	Bulk Seed - Foothills Wildflower Mix (3.5 ounces)	Very Low	Y	1-6 ft	Seasonally	Y	Y	Oct-March
Tapteal Native Plants	Bulk Seed - Native Pollinator Mix (3.5 ounces)	Mod	Y/N	1-3 ft	Seasonally	Y	Partial	Oct-March
Plants of the Wild	Rose Creek WILDFLOWER GRASS MEADOW MIX	Low	Y	1-3 ft	Seasonally	Y	Partial	Oct-March
Plants of the Wild	Rose Creek WILDFLOWER MEADOW MIX – 1/2 pound	Low	Y	1-4 ft	Seasonally	Y	Partial	Oct-March

FAQ + BEST PRACTICES

WATERING KEY

HOW LONG SHOULD I WATER?

Initially, plan to water your newly seeded area at least 3 x a week for 30 minutes or so the first few months to help establish--- Note, if you're sowing in fall and winter, rain and snow should help do this watering for you and you will not need to water until irrigation is available in spring. After Establishment-- Long, deep watering **45 mins-70 minutes per zone** recommended to promote deep root growth. Deeper roots support resiliency against extreme temperatures and drought.

NWOE = No Water Once Established

Very Low = 2 x Month

WHEN IS THE BEST TIME TO WATER?

The best time to water is **between 1 AM-7 AM** This allows the roots and soil to absorb as much water as possible before the hottest part of the day. AVOID watering during the heat of the day, especially in summer -- a majority of water will be lost by evaporation and less will be reaching the plants.

Low = 1 x week

Mod = 2 x week

HOW OFTEN SHOULD I MOW?

It depends! If you choose a low growing mix, you should not need to mow more than 1x per year after establishment. Meadow mixes respond best to mowing a mowing in late fall or early spring when new growth begins. Do not mow shorter than 5" in height. Check your seed mix for more specific advice.

High = 4 x a week

DO I NEED TO FERTILIZE A LAWN ALTERNATIVE?

Short answer is no! Diverse plantings of wildflowers and bunchgrass function more as an ecosystem where the plants are building a soil community underground. If the soil is particularly harsh on your site, an application of a compost based fertilizer (compost, compost tea, worm tea) can be effective in the early years of your planting. After establishment, consider an occasional rotation of grazing by goats or sheep -- they'll do the fertilizing and mowing for you!

WILL A LAWN ALTERNATIVE BE NO MAINTENANCE?

There is no such thing as a zero maintenance space, especially if we expect it to look a certain way. Meadows and lawn alternatives will still require some maintenance, especially early on while the planting is establishing. Seasonal mowing, and weed management will be the main inputs required of the space as well as routine irrigation maintenance.

HOW LONG UNTIL A LAWN ALTERNATIVE IS ESTABLISHED?

It depends on your species choice and when you plant but generally the saying goes -- First they sleep, then they creep, then they leap! Perennial grasses and wildflowers take 2-3 years to fully establish while annual plants will bloom the first and second year. All the mixes listed include a mix of annual and perennial species meaning something will establish within the first few months after planting.

WILL A LAWN ALTERNATIVE LOOK MESSY?

It's all about how to sell it! The goal is to select seeds and species that meet the needs and intent of your space. Creating areas of focus through use of wide pathways, seating, large boulders, shade structures or a tall shrub or tree can create contrast to your turf alternative areas. Showing intent through use of signage highlighting pollinator support and waterwise practices can create community buy in around your planting area. Culturally, change is hard! Our role as land managers needs to shift from micro-managing a high input, non-functioning, water intense monoculture towards stewardship of biodiverse, waterwise spaces. Biodiversity and functioning ecosystems are constantly transitioning and adapting to the parameters of the space and regional climate leading to less inputs and a more resilient planting that will be enjoyed for years to come.