



GBNP Native Lawn Mix

Prep, Sow and Care Guide

Prepare Area

1. Clear the Area
Remove any existing and unwanted vegetation from the space.
2. Level the Ground
Level area to your best ability to reduce both high and low points. Use screened topsoil to fill any low points.
3. Assess Soil Needs
Check if more soil is needed. If so, we recommend a mix of topsoil and compost. Keep in mind, your “lawn” will perform best in a loamy soil, which has a mix of sand, silt and clay.
Soil amendments based on soil type:
 - Clay Loam (Feels sticky, like peanut butter) = Mix 1:1 native clay soil with crusher fines or coarse sand, DO NOT USE FINE SAND - THIS WILL MAKE CONCRETE! Adding compost is also beneficial.
 - Sand Loam (granular like sugar, easily breaks apart) = Simply add compost to soil
 - Silt Loam (Smooth yet crumbly) = This is ideal! No additional amendments needed
4. Prepare the surface
Till or rake the area before sowing to increase soil-seed contact.

Sowing

-Spread seed at recommended seeding rate. For our Native “Lawn” Mix we recommend 5lbs per 1,000 sq feet. You can use a seed spreader or you can spread by hand. The mix can tolerate some shade and full sun, though it's best suited for areas with partial shade rather than heavy shade.

-If spreading by hand: break your area and your seed into equal parts (for example if you are seeding 1,000sq ft break your area into two 500sq ft sections (we'll call them zone 1 and zone 2 and your seed into two 2.5lb quantities. Then, divide your seed again so you have four 1.25lb quantities. Working in one direction, broadcast 1.25lbs of seed in zone 1. Then, repeat this action with another 1.25lbs in the same zone working in the opposite (perpendicular) direction. Repeat in Zone 2. Use this technique with as many zones needed for your project. A seed spreader is recommended for more than 3,000 sq ft.

-Although it is not necessary, you can cover grass seed after sowing. We recommend a very light touch! Less than 1/8” is ideal.



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Watering

-During the germination stage, we recommend watering more frequently but for shorter durations, as the amount of water needed depends on soil and climate conditions. The key is to keep the soil consistently damp—without it becoming wet or pooling—while the seeds germinate and establish. Once the seedlings are about an inch tall, you can adjust the watering schedule to be less frequent but with longer durations. We recommend setting up a simple sprinkler on a timer!

Mowing

–For the first time based on how tall you desire your grass to be. We recommend 2-3”

Desired length	First mow height
4 in	5-5.5 in
3 in	4 in
2in	2-3 in

We recommend keeping the lawn at a height of 2-3 inches. Taller grass retains more water, which is especially beneficial during the summer heat. While you can choose not to mow, allowing grass to go to seed may cause it to go dormant sooner. Mowing at least once a month can help prevent this.

Fertilize

-Wait! It will take 2-4 weeks for your grass to grow. The benefit of a native grass lawn is that it will need less inputs such as fertilizer. You can fertilize on a yearly basis if desired.

We recommend an organic fertilizer such Yum Yum Mix, available in the Water-Wise Store