

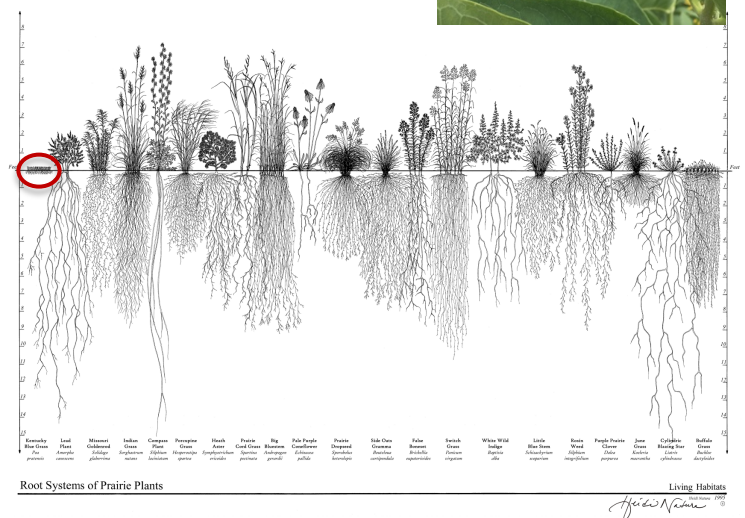
Native Seed Mix Recommendations for Residential Areas with Poorly Drained Soils Lucas County, Ohio

This guidance is meant to be referenced by contractors and landowners working with the Lucas County Engineer's Office to vegetate riparian (streamside) buffer strips along waterways under county maintenance.

Planting riparian buffers with appropriate native seed (forbs and grasses) can, in many cases, provide **more benefit** to the property owner's interests and area wildlife compared to turf grass and related species. See below for a summary of expected benefits of native vegetation and planting options to consider.

Benefits of Using Native Seed Mixes in Residential Buffer Strips

- Reductions in Soil Erosion
 - Many native plants have longer root systems compared to turf grasses; these longer roots help to keep soil in place during wet weather events
 - The figure to the lower right compares root system length of Kentucky Blue Grass (traditional turf - far left) with those of some native species. *Note: Not all of the plants in this graphic are recommended for use across Ohio; this is shown for illustrative purposes only.*
- Improvement in Water Quality
 - Native plants can reduce the amount pollutants (e.g., nutrients - nitrogen and phosphorus) in surface water by filtering runoff and absorbing nutrients before they enter a waterway
- Reductions in Long-term Maintenance of Buffer Strip
 - Little to no watering or fertilizer needed
 - Minimal mowing needed in an established area
- Attraction of Native Wildlife
 - Native wildlife has evolved together with native plants so they are well-suited to provide for each other's needs (e.g., food, protection, pollination, etc.)
- Promotion of Regional Native Biodiversity
 - The absence of native vegetation cover is a major factor in the decline of many animal and insect species in Northwest Ohio
- Beautiful Flowers
 - If designed for a specific region, native seed mixes contain a wide variety of flowering plants that provide that blooms throughout the growing season
 - Continuous and diverse blooms create a beautiful buffer area, whether it borders an active agricultural field or suburban backyard.



See back page for recommended maintenance, suggested seed mix, and area resources.

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Recommended Maintenance

- Seeding: Fall through early spring (i.e., dormant seasons)
- First Year Management: Periodic mowing and/or selective removal of targeted undesirable plants
- Long-term Management: Mow once in spring and then leave tall throughout fall, winter, and early spring
 - Native wildlife will lay eggs and/or hibernate in dormant vegetation

Suggested Seed Mix for Residential Buffer Areas with Poorly Drained (Wet) Soils Ohio Prairie Nursery (OPN) Item #031820-2*

- Expected Height Range: 3ft to 4ft
- Does well in areas of sun/partial shade
- Attracts butterflies, pollinators, and songbirds
- Seeding Rate: Hydro seeded / Broadcast / Drilled - 7 pounds per acre

Disclaimer: OPN designed this seed mix specifically for Lucas County and the Northwest Ohio region. This mix is provided here as option/example and is available for purchase through OPN.

Contractors and property owners are encouraged to consider this mix when making their selection. Comparable seed mixes may be available from other vendors but it is suggested that landowners consult with Lucas Soil & Water Conservation District to evaluate mix suitability for local conditions.

Species Name	Common Name	%
<i>Elymus virginicus</i>	Virginia Wild Rye	44.75%
<i>Chamaecrista fasciculata</i>	Partridge Pea	13.75%
<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	Black-eyed Susan	7.19%
<i>Panicum (Dichanthelium) clandestinum</i>	Deer-tongue Grass	6.25%
<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>	Ox Eye Sunflower	6.25%
<i>Elymus riparius</i>	Riverbank Wild Rye	5.00%
<i>Carex vulpinoidea</i>	Brown Fox Sedge	4.69%
<i>Senna hebecarpa</i>	Wild Senna	3.12%
<i>Liatris spicata</i>	Dense Blazingstar	1.56%
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Common Rush	1.56%
<i>Scirpus atrovirens</i>	Dark Green Bulrush	1.56%
<i>Carex crinita</i>	Fringed Sedge	1.56%
<i>Bidens aristosa</i>	Tickseed Sunflower	0.94%
<i>Solidago speciosa</i>	Showy Goldenrod	0.62%
<i>Pycnanthemum virginianum</i>	Virginia Mountain Mint	0.31%
<i>Mimulus ringens</i>	Monkey Flower	0.31%
<i>Aster novae-angliae</i>	New England Aster	0.31%
<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	Great Lobelia	0.12%
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	Cardinal Flower	0.12%

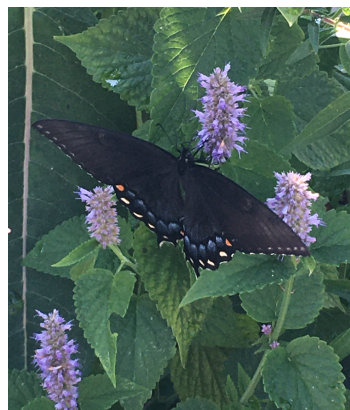


Photo Credit: Ohio Prairie Nursery

Area Resources

- Lucas Soil & Water Conservation District: lucasswcd.org
- Ohio Prairie Nursery: opnseed.com
- Greater Toledo Lake Erie Clear Choices Clean Water: toledolakeerie.clearchoicescleanwater.org

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