# Native Seed Mix Recommendations for Residential Areas with Well 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.

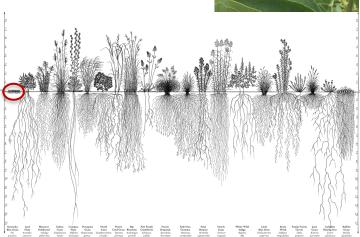
## Benefits of Using Native Seed Mixes in Residential Buffer Strips

- 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 Well Drained (Dry) Soils

Ohio Prairie Nursery (OPN) Item #031820-3\*

- 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

Species Name	Common Name	%
Elymus canadensis	Nodding Wild Rye	31.25%
Elymus virginicus	Virginia Wild Rye	26.56%
Chamaecrista fasciculata	Partridge Pea	18.13%
Rudbeckia hirta	Black-eyed Susan	7.81%
Heliopsis helianthoides	Ox Eye Sunflower	4.69%
Lupinus perennis	Perennial Lupine	3.12%
Agrostis perennans	Autumn Bentgrass	1.56%
Monarda fistulosa	Wild Bergamot	1.25%
Asclepias tuberosa	Butterfly Weed	1.25%
Rudbeckia triloba	Brown-eyed Susan	0.94%
Penstemon digitalis	Foxglove Beardtongue	0.63%
Ratibida pinnata	Yellow Coneflower/Grey-Headed C	0.63%
Liatris spicata	Dense Blazingstar	0.63%
Zizia aurea	Golden Alexanders	0.63%
Aster laevis	Smooth Aster	0.31%
Aster azureus	Sky Blue Aster	0.31%
Solidago nemoralis	Dwarf Goldenrod	0.31%



Lucas Soil & Water Conservation District to evaluate mix suitability for local conditions.

### 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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