

HABITURF™

Native Lawn Mix

A mix of **Buffalograss**, **Blue Grama**, and **Curly Mesquite**. (as recommended by the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center) that requires less mowing, watering and weeding, and simulates nature's short-grass prairies. Although different species, these grasses have almost identically shaped leaves and color and produce a great-looking, even-textured, native look.

Put together in a multi-species mix, these native grass species can provide the same appearance and function as a non-native monocultures, without requiring a massive input of weed killer and watering, and with much lower rates of mowing. Plant 3-5 pounds per 1000 sq ft.

Observations have shown that this native seed mix outperforms Bermudagrass in terms of rates of establishment, thickness of the turf, mowing rates and weed resistance.



Establishment / Management:

Habiturf needs **6-8** hours of sunlight per day and prefers clay to clay loam soils. Shady areas and sandy soils will not likely give satisfactory results. A well-drained soil is also essential for long term lawn success. Normally, developers spread a couple of inches of imported soil over a layer compacted by heavy construction machinery. But a sustainable lawn needs deep roots, so rip, rotovate or disk your soil to at least 8" - the deeper the better. Then incorporate a 1/2" of living compost with a low nitrogen and low phosphorus content into the top 3" of your prepared soil. **DO NOT** use mulch (e.g. shredded tree bark or wood shavings) grass won't grow in this. The soil surface should be finished to a fine granular texture and free from large stones.

Note: If you are on undisturbed, uncompacted native soils then till lightly and add 1/4" compost into the top 1" or alternatively add a compost tea.

Sow the seed (the seed may be too chaffy to be planted with a hand-cranked seed broadcaster), and rake and press (garden roller or feet) it into soil for good soil-seed contact. **Early spring** is the best planting time once soil temperatures pick-up. Later in the growing season will work but takes more water. Avoid mid-summer and winter.

Irrigation of the lawn area should be every day for the first 10 days to prevent soil drying out. Thereafter, water the area two times per week for the next month, then water two times per month for the next two months of the growing season (March-November). Once the lawn is established, about four months, you may opt to minimize irrigation to save water and allow the lawn to go 'drought dormant'. The native grasses will go brown and temporarily stop growing, but should green-up once rain returns.

Mowing:

This depends on how you want your lawn to look. Recommended 3-4" high cut for a great looking, dense turf, resistant to foot traffic (within reason) and weeds. Mow once every 3-5 weeks when growing and not at all when drought or cold dormant. Mowing shorter (below 2") will decrease your lawn's health. Conversely, not mowing at all through the growing season will prevent new shoot growth which reduces the turf density. However, allowing the grass to seed-out once a year guarantees a good seed bank—insurance against drought, heavy foot traffic and weeds.

Feeding:

By returning the grass cuttings directly to the soil, annual feeding should not be necessary. A healthy, living soil (because you added live compost), plus the natural airborne nutrients will be sufficient to keep your lawn at ecological equilibrium just like a natural prairie. But for high-use lawns with children and/or pets, or on freely-draining soils, a fall dressing with a low-nutrient, living-compost or compost tea plus an aeration (with a garden fork or similar tool) will certainly help.



Photo courtesy of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center



- ☐ If you do not prepare the soil adequately, your lawn will suffer and you will get weeds
 - ☐ If you mow too often and too short, you will get weeds
 - ☐ If you over-water, you will get weeds
 - ☐ If you over-fertilize, you will get big weeds
- ☐ If weeds appear while your lawn is being established, remove the weeds before they go to seed or become too established.

Please call or e-mail us for seed availability and prices.

Douglass King Seeds

4627 Emil Rd
San Antonio, TX 78219

Tel: 210-661-4191
Toll Free: 888 DKSEEDS
Fax: 210-661-8972
E-mail: sales@dkseeds.com

A portion of all sales will be donated to the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. HABITURF is a TM of LBJWC


Since 1912