



**Douglass  
King Seeds**

# Habiturf™

## The Native Lawn Mix

**Best Time To Plant:**  
Early Spring

**Planting Rate:**  
3-5 lbs. Per 1,000 sq. ft.

**Planting Depth:**  
1/4-inch deep

**Sunlight:**  
6-8 hours full sun

**Soil Type:**  
Clay to clay loam

**Height:**  
Unmowed it can get up to 12-inches tall, but usually falls over and creates a flowing look about 8-inches tall

**Germination Time:**  
In a prepared seed bed with irrigation, seedlings should begin sprouting within two weeks

**Regions:**  
Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Southern California

**Uses:**  
~Native Lawn  
~Less or No Mowing  
~Drought Tolerant  
~Seed attracts songbirds  
~Help the butterflies—  
15 species of Butterflies  
use Buffalograss and Blue Grama as larval host plants



**Habiturf™** is a turf mix researched and designed by the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. It consists of Buffalograss (62%), Blue Grama (30%), and Curly Mesquite (8%). It requires less mowing, watering, weeding, and simulates nature's short grass prairies. Although different species, these grasses have almost identical leaves and color and produce a great-looking, even-textured, native look.

Together these native grass species can provide the same appearance and function as traditional mono-cultures, with less weed killer, watering, and mowing. This native seed mix outperforms Bermudagrass in terms of rates of establishment, thickness of the turf, mowing rates and weed resistance.

### **Establishment / Management:**

A well-drained soil is essential for long term lawn success. Normally, developers spread a couple of inches of imported soil over a layer compacted by heavy construction machinery. However, a sustainable lawn needs deep roots, so rip, rototill 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. Note: If you are on undisturbed, non-compacted native soils then till lightly and add 1/4" compost into the top 1" or alternatively add a compost tea.

**DO NOT use mulch**— grass will not grow in it.

**Sow the seed:** Rake and press it (by garden roller or feet) into soil for good 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 planting in mid-summer and winter.

**Irrigation:** 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 two times per month for the



next two months in the growing season (March-November). Once the lawn is established, at about four months, you can 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:** We 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 stop when in 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 that reduces turf density. However, allowing the grass to seed-out once a year guarantees a good seed bank— insurance against drought, foot traffic and weeds.

**Fertilizer:** Annual fertilizer should not be necessary, as long as you do not pick up the grass clippings. The grass clippings will break down in the soil and provide adequate nutrition.

**Weed control:** If you do not prepare the soil adequately, over-water, over-fertilize, or mow too short and too often, your lawn may get weeds. If weeds appear, remove the weeds before they go to seed.

# Getting The Best Success From Your Seed

The key traits of a person who has a “green thumb” are patience and preparation. Patience is needed because all of your seed will not germinate at once. Preparation is needed to ensure that you plant your seed at the right depth and at the best time.

Seeds have limited energy. If planted too deep, the seeds will use up their energy before reaching the surface and die. However, if you plant too shallow the seed could dry out, blow away, or be eaten by birds.

## Planting Guidelines

1. **Timing is Everything!**—It’s very important to know when to plant. Seeds need adequate moisture and soil temperature to be within a certain in order to grow, and each species has different needs. Look for the recommended planting season on our brochures and on our products’ pages online: [www.dkseeds.com/products/](http://www.dkseeds.com/products/) and plan your planting around the recommended season for best results.

2. **Know Your Region**—Plant the right seed for your region. The regions are listed on our brochures and online. If you don’t know what your region is, ask us!

3. **Pick the right location**—Most seed needs about 8 hours of full sunlight. Pick a sunny location for your project.

4. **Prepare the Seedbed**—Preparing the seedbed before you plant is very important. Try to remove all the other vegetation prior to planting by tilling or spraying an herbicide. The soil should be soft but not too loose. A good indicator is if your shoe leaves a print in the soil, but doesn’t sink in.

5. **Planting Depth**—Pay attention to the recommended planting depth for each species. For most of DK Seeds’ species, a quarter-inch deep is all that is needed. You can find planting depth recommendations on the left column on all of our brochures and on our products’ pages online.

6. **Know Your Seed Type**—Getting your seed spread in an even matter will help you ensure a successful planting. Seed spreaders can help, but only if you use the tool that works best with your type of seed. It is important to match your seed to your planter or your planter to your seed. If you need recommendations on the best tools to use, ask us!

For small areas, like a garden, hand spreading will work.

7. Cover the seed in soil after spreading it. Don’t cover it too deep!

8. After planting, **compress the soil** to compact it around the seed, ensuring good seed-to-soil contact. We recommend using a sod roller, which is available to rent at some nurseries and home improvement stores.

9. If you can, **water** during the establishment period. Continue to monitor the moisture levels of the soil closely for the next few weeks. In lieu of rainfall, water enough to keep the soil moist for the first few weeks. If you do not have access to water, try to plan your planting with the rain.

## Ask For Advice From The Pros!

If you have any questions, we are just a phone call away! But we are not the only ones with a wealth of knowledge. State and federal wildlife agents are invaluable sources of information and advice. There are County Extension Agents with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service in each county that can also advise you on your project. Go to <https://counties.agrilife.org/> to see a list of agents by county.

*The best advice we can give is this: Do not cut corners— You can cut enough corners to ensure a failure!*

Use this ruler to help you gauge your planting depth. Fold the page in half to make more sturdy.

