



City of Waterloo

Private Property Native Planting Regulations

Private Property Native Planting Regulations

Any individual, business, or corporation to plant prairie areas upon privately owned property shall adhere to the regulations listed below concerning native planting areas. **These regulations are intended for private property and do not apply to, or grant approval for, native planting areas in the Right of Way pursuant to Title 7 Chapter 5, Article C of the city code.**

1) Location/Separation

- a) Native planting areas shall be placed in such a manner as to prevent interference with, or obstruction to any improvements, or utilities such as streets, sidewalks, fire hydrants, water valves, or manholes.
- Two (2) feet from a street sign, light or signalpole, hydrant, water valve, or manhole
 - Two (2) feet from sidewalks
 - Two (2) feet from the edge of a residential driveway
 - Five (5) feet from driveways of commercial, industrial or institutional properties
 - Three (3) feet from neighboring properties

2) **Use:** Property owner will not use the native planting area for any purpose other than non-commercial native plantings.

3) **Maintenance:** It is the duty of the property owner to maintain all native planting areas on their property. The native planting area shall be kept free of weeds (7-5B-1), volunteer trees (7-5B-1), and debris. Burning of native prairie would require a separate approval process through the Fire Department and City Council, and is unlikely to be allowed in residential and urban areas. Below are suggested maintenance actions to maintain native prairie areas.

a) Mowing

- i) First year- Mow to a height of 6" 3-4 times during the growing season to help control fast growing annual weeds.
- ii) Second year- Mow in mid to late June to a height of 12" to prevent biennial weeds from forming seed
- iii) Third and subsequent years- Mow as low to the ground as possible in the early spring before growth begins and rake cut material from the native planting area every two to three years. This mimics a prescribed fire and promotes native plant growth.

b) Hand digging and pulling

- i) If the native planting area is small enough and the applicant is skilled at identifying native plant species and weeds, then weeds and volunteer trees can be dug and pulled from within the native planting area. Care should be taken not to damage root systems of native plants.

Source: Diboll, Neil "Management of Prairie Meadows"

4) **Termination:** Native Planting areas that contain more than 30 percent weeds or other undesirable vegetation, shall be deemed a nuisance, and can be mowed or removed with costs assessed to the property owner, pursuant to Title 7, Chapter 5B of the City Code. The presence of more than 8 volunteer trees per 500 sq ft shall also constitute a per se nuisance pursuant to Title 7, Chapter 5B of the City Code .

Resources:

- See attached suggested seed mix for use in Black Hawk County that has been developed by the Cedar Valley Monarch Zones (CVMZ) project of the Cedar Valley Arboretum is attached. Parties interested in purchasing CVMZ Pollinator Seed Mix can contact: <https://www.cedarvalleyarboretum.org> (319) 226-4966
- UNI Tallgrass Prairie Center list of seed and service providers
https://tallgrassprairiecenter.org/sites/default/files/ia_prairie_seed_service_providers_11-21.pdf

CVMZ Pollinator Seed Mix

Common Name	Scientific Name	PLS lbs. per acre
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Grasses/Sedges

Big Bluestem	<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	0.10
Canada Wild Rye	<i>Elymus canadensis</i>	0.60
Indiangrass	<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	0.80
Little Bluestem	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	1.00
Prairie Dropseed	<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>	0.10
Prairie June Grass	<i>Koeleria macrantha</i>	0.10
Rough Dropseed	<i>Sporobolus asper</i>	0.50
Sideoats Grama	<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>	1.50
Copper Shouldered Oval Sedge	<i>C. bicknellii</i>	0.04
Plains Oval Sedge	<i>C. brevior</i>	0.04
Field Oval Sedge	<i>C. molesta</i>	0.04

Totals		4.82
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Forbs

Anise Hyssop	<i>Agastache foeniculum</i>	0.05
Black-eyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	0.20
Blue Vervain	<i>Verbena hastata</i>	0.06
White wild Indigo	<i>Baptisa alba</i>	0.04
Brown-eyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia triloba</i>	0.15
Butterfly Milkweed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	0.20
Canada Milk Vetch	<i>Astragalus canadensis</i>	0.05
Common Evening Primrose	<i>Oenothera biennis</i>	0.03
Common Milkweed	<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	0.30
Compass Plant	<i>Silphium laciniatum</i>	0.10
Foxglove Beardtongue	<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>	0.02
Golden Alexanders	<i>Zizia aurea</i>	0.15
Great St. John's Wort	<i>Hypericum pyramidatum</i>	0.05
Heath Aster	<i>Symphotrichum ericoides</i>	0.07
Hoary Vervain	<i>Verbena stricta</i>	0.09
Illinois Bundle Flower	<i>Desmanthus illinoensis</i>	0.15
Ironweed	<i>Vernonia fasciculata</i>	0.03
Great Blue Lobelia	<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	0.02
New England Aster	<i>Aster novae-angliae</i>	0.07
Ohio Spiderwort	<i>Tradescantia ohioensis</i>	0.07
Ox-eye (Early) Sunflower	<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>	0.15
Pale Purple Coneflower	<i>Echinacea pallida</i>	0.20
Partridge Pea	<i>Chamaecrista fasciculata</i>	0.60
Prairie Blazingstar	<i>Liatris pycnostachya</i>	0.18
Purple Coneflower	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	0.20
Purple Prairie Clover	<i>Dalea purpurea</i>	0.15
Rattlesnake Master	<i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i>	0.10
Rosin Weed	<i>Silphium integrifolium</i>	0.15
Round-headed Bush Clover	<i>Lespedeza capitata</i>	0.10
Showy Tick Trefoil	<i>Desmodium canadense</i>	0.25
Sky Blue Aster	<i>Symphotrichum oolentangiense</i>	0.07
Sneezeweed	<i>Helenium autumnale</i>	0.05
Stiff Goldenrod	<i>Solidago rigida</i>	0.06
Swamp Milkweed	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	0.05
Tickseed	<i>Coreopsis tinctoria</i>	0.05
Western Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	0.03