Seed Cost-Share Program

With support from the Johnson County Stormwater Management Program, a cost share program for establishing native grasses and native wildflowers is now available. The total funding available for 2021 is $10,000 and funds are available on a first come first serve basis. You must be a resident of Johnson County and the seed must be planted on your property in Johnson County.

All interested parties must fill out a project application with K-State Research and Extension’s Johnson County office. If your project is approved, you will be contacted with instructions on how to obtain your seed and make payment. A no-till drill may be available to rent for your seeding project and we can assist you with scheduling.

How to Apply

The first step is to complete the project application and send it to Jessica Barnett, Johnson County K-State Research and Extension Agriculture Agent. The application can be downloaded at http://www.johnson.k-state.edu/crops-livestock/no-till-drill-rental-and-grass-seed.html or call 913-715-7000.

Once your application is approved, you will be able to pick up the seed from our local seed source and will pay your portion of the order.

If you have any questions about this seed cost share program contact Tara Markley at 913-715-7000 or Tara.Markley@jocogov.org.
**Seed Mixes Available**

**Native Grass Seed**
- We will be using a grass seed mix that supports wildlife habitat or grazing for livestock. The mix includes Big Bluestem, Little Bluestem, Switchgrass, Indiangrass, Sideoats grama, and a small percentage of native forbs.
- With 50% cost share, the native grass seed mix costs $7.25/lb PLS. The recommended seeding rate is 8 lbs PLS/acre. The total cost to seed one acre is about $58.
- Recommended planting time is from April through mid-May.

**Pollinator Mix**
- We will be using a mix of about 20 native wildflowers and legumes designed to support pollinator habitat for butterflies, bees, and birds. This mix can be seeded alone or with other native grasses.
- With 50% cost share, the pollinator seed mix costs $32.50/lb PLS. A pound will cover about 20,000 square feet. For larger areas 2 PLS/acre is recommended. The cost to seed one acre is about $65.
- Recommended planting is from April through mid-May.

**Why Should You Plant Native Grasses?**
Native, warm season grasses (NWSGs) have multiple uses and benefits. Primary uses include grazing, hay, conservation cover, and biomass production. NWSGs are capable of producing more biomass with less nutrient and water input than cool season grasses. NWSGs also protect our streams and lakes by reducing erosion and sequestering nutrients in run-off from other adjacent agricultural practices. Mix in some wildflowers, and the NWSG stand becomes an ideal habitat for butterflies, bees, and other beneficial pollinators.

For livestock owners, NWSGs can provide actively growing forage during June-August after cool season grasses go dormant. Moving cattle and other grazers onto NWSG stands can allow cool season grasses to rest before going into fall production.

For landowners interested in installing NWSGs and/or wildflower pollinator habitat, it is always best to start prepping your land the fall before spring planting. Prepping may include killing cool season grasses and weeds with a glyphosate treatment in the fall, and reapplying a treatment the following spring. Burning or mowing native grasses every three years is recommended. Establishing a stand of NWSG and/or pollinator habitat can benefit the environment, people, wildlife and livestock while bringing back a little bit of the great North American prairie to Johnson County.