

What Should I Plant?

If you decide to plant something to control erosion, the least expensive option is a grass seed native to Michigan, along with a nurse crop, which grows quickly and protects the slower-growing native grass.

Native Grasses

- Big Bluestem (best for soil type)
- Little Bluestem (best for soil type)
- Switchgrass
- Indiangrass

Grasses are sowed at a rate of 2.5-3 lbs per 10,000 square feet

Nurse Crops

- Annual Ryegrass
- Seed Oats

These two crops are the most common and are easy to buy locally. Ryegrass and oats are sowed at a rate of 5 lbs per 10,000 square feet

How Do I Plant Them?

1. Plant as soon as possible to ensure proper germination.
2. (Optional) Use garden rake to create small furrows.
3. Spread grass seed mixture by hand or handheld spreader.
4. Rake area with leaf rake to bury the seeds slightly (1/4" is plenty)
5. Sprinkle water lightly just to get the surface damp, not wash seeds away. Water again 2-3 times per week for 3 weeks.
6. Mow 8" high or weed whip to cut tops off weeds and shorten the nurse crop – 3 times over the summer.

Further Resources

- http://nativeconnections.net/blog/?page_id=88
- https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mda_CP-2_NATIVEGRASS_9615_7.pdf

Do I Need a Permit?

Four Lakes Task Force gives you permission to plant on the exposed lake bottom in Midland County. Boyce Hydro has not yet given permission to plant on the lake bottom in Gladwin County.

Soil erosion is regulated through the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE). Some repairs can be done without a permit, while others require EGLE permission.

You DO need a permit

- Moving any type of earth
- Construction of structures
 - Seawall
 - Bulkhead
 - Revetment

You DO NOT need a permit

- Planting native grasses
- Restacking displaced riprap
- Extending drain lines
- Working with an existing seawall permit

When in doubt, contact EGLE: EGLE-Assist@michigan.gov

- Midland: Megan Berry at 989-355-3522
- Gladwin: Theresa O'Brien at 989-297-1717

How Do I Get a Permit?

1. Get an EGLE permit by contacting your county's EGLE workers
2. Complete the Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control (SESC) permit application.
3. Submit your plan to control erosion and sediment.
4. Prepare a proposed time schedule for the project.
5. Submit the appropriate fees.

Midland County SESC Permit and Instructions:

- <https://www.co.midland.mi.us/DrainCommissioner/SoilErosionPermit.aspx>

Gladwin County SESC Permit and Instructions:

- <https://www.gladwincd.org/soil-erosion.html>

Distributors and Manufacturers Representatives

Erosion Control Products and Seed

Erosion Control Products

- Erosion Control Blankets
- Turf Reinforcement Mats
- Geo Cells
- Geotextiles
- Transition Mats
- Hard Armoring
- Pipe products

Distributors and Manufacturer Representatives

Distributors

- Etna Supply: Mt. Pleasant – (989)772-5100, Saginaw – (989) 753-5893
- Michigan Pipe and Valve: Mt. Pleasant – (989) 817-4331, Saginaw – (989) 752-7911

Manufacturer Representatives

- Interface H₂O: Distributor and Manufacturer Representative Zeeland (616)-931-5584
- Hanes Geo Components: Livonia – (866) 960-4300

Where to Get Seeds

Touch of Country

- Call for prices (989) 689-3183

Standish Milling

- 50 lb. FSG Perennial Ryegrass \$73.75
- 50 lb. Smooth Bromegrass \$131.00
- 1 lb. Midwest Wildflower Mix \$28.00

Jonathan Green

- 25 lb. TRI-RYE Perennial Ryegrass \$79.99
- 1 lb. Wildflower and Meadow Grass Mix..... \$14.99

Native Connections

- ¼ acre Slope Stabilization Seed Mix \$177.00
- Big Bluestem\$13.00/lb.
- Canada Wild Rye\$40.00/lb.
- Riverbank Wild Rye.....\$80.00/lb.
- Silky Wild Rye\$140.00/lb.
- Virginia Wild Rye\$18.00/lb.
- Bottlebrush Grass.....\$240.00/lb.
- Junegrass\$320.00/lb.
- Switchgrass.....\$12.00/lb.

The Task Force has contacted the Natural Resource Conservation Service to see if a large-scale purchase of native grass seeds is possible. If this interests you, watch for updates.