

TO SCHEDULE NATIVE GRASS PLANTER

To schedule the use of the native grass planter, contact the custodian below.

Jarrell Cagle, Custodian
462 Reynolds Bend Drive
Rome, GA 30161
Phone (706) 291-8651

Fee:
\$8/acre (minimum-\$100/day)
plus a \$25 set up fee

WHAT IS RC&D?

The RC&D program is a public/private partnership, initiated in 1962 to assist people in caring for and protecting their natural resources while improving an area's economy, environment and standard of living. The non-profit effort, led by local government and community leaders, volunteers, and state and federal agencies, identifies and implements solutions to human, economic, and environmental concerns.

The Rolling Hills RC&D Council was authorized in 1998. The Council maintains conservation equipment and implements natural resource projects throughout the nine county region of Floyd, Bartow, Polk, Haralson, Paulding, Carroll, Douglas, Coweta, and Heard.

For more information:
Rolling Hills RC&D Council
512 Main Street, Cedartown, GA 30125
Ph 770-749-0444
www.rollinghillsrcd.org

512 Main Street
Cedartown, GA 30125

ROLLING HILLS RESOURCE CONSERVATION
& DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Native Grass Planting Service

For the purpose of establishing native grasses for wildlife enhancement, erosion control, and water quality improvement.



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Native grass establishment

WHY NATIVE GRASSES?

Historically, all forage production and landscape cover in the area east of the Mississippi River has been accomplished through the use of introduced grasses and legumes. In recent years, the interest in native grasses has increased.

There are many benefits of establishing a stand of native warm season grasses. In addition to being useful as a form of conservation cover or as a forage crop, native grasses are beneficial to many wildlife populations.

WILDLIFE BENEFITS

Many thousands of acres in Georgia that were open habitats covered in native grasses and forbs a few decades ago are now covered in forest or exotic pasture grasses. The loss of these old field and native grassland habitats has resulted in drastic declines in bobwhite quail and grassland bird populations. Planting and maintaining native grasses can help revive these populations by providing essential cover and food sources. The “clumped” growth form of native grasses is the preferred nesting habitat of bobwhite quail. It is also excellent habitat for white-tailed deer fawns, wild turkey, cottontail rabbits, and many kinds of grassland songbirds. Native grasses also provide a valuable seed source for small mammals and songbirds. In addition, they provide a safe area for young quail and turkeys to forage for insects.



PLANTING RATES & MANAGEMENT

Typical seeding rate for wildlife habitat is 3-6lbs pure live seed (PLS) per acre. Forage stand seeding rates are higher at 8-12lbs PLS per acre. While forage stands can be planted with just one species of grass, mixtures of different grasses are much better for wildlife.

Native Warm Season Grasses generally take several years to completely establish. In fact, many seeds will remain dormant until the second growing season. For the first 2-3 years after the seed is planted, the primary maintenance will be to control any invasions of undesirable plants from the stand by spot spraying herbicide. When the stand is mature, it can be maintained by prescribed fire, grazing, mowing, disking, or a combination of these methods.

Contact your NRCS office for planting and management recommendations customized for your particular goals.

www.ga.nrcs.usda.gov

BENEFITS OF NO-TILL

Conservation tillage is a method to plant crops without plowing and with minimum tillage of the soil. The No-Till planting system leaves the soil and other residues undisturbed while planting. Planting no-till involves the planter cutting a shallow slit in the soil, depositing the seed, and covering it up—all in one trip! This results in better soil fertility and less erosion potential.

The No-Till program saves energy as well as the landowner's time. Planting by traditional methods requires the landowner to make 4-5 trips across the field using approximately 5 gallons of fuel per acre. The No-Till method requires only one trip and approximately 1/2 gallon of fuel per acre.

The program saves soil, improves water quality, and improves fertility by keeping soil and crop residue in the field. No-till planting can reduce soil erosion up to 95% compared to conventional lowing, disking and harrowing for seedbed preparation.

NATIVE GRASSES INCLUDE:

- Indiangrass (Sorghastrum nutans)
- Little bluestem (Schizachyrium scoparium)
- Big bluestem (Andropogon gerardi)
- Switchgrass (Panicum virgatum)



EQUIPMENT OPERATING PROCEDURES & GUIDELINES

- Equipment is provided at a nominal charge to be operated by the landowner
- Landowner is responsible for providing seed
- A rental agreement which includes a charge for operating and maintenance of equipment must be signed prior to leasing equipment
- No fertilizer will be applied with No-till equipment
- The leasee is responsible for the damage to equipment that is not deemed by the Council as regular wear and tear
- Seeds are planted at the rate desired by the landowner
- The Rolling Hills RC&D Council, custodian, and other partners are not responsible for germination or seed planted or stand loss.

User tractor recommendations for drill operation:

Minimum 50 horsepower with hydraulics required