



Mattagami Region Conservation Authority Seed Standard

For Shoreline, Lowland and Wetland Restoration Projects

Purpose

To provide a standardized, ecologically appropriate native seed mix for restoration within shorelines, wetland edges and lowland areas across the City of Timmins.

Approved Native Seed (Northeastern Ontario Ecotypes)

Forbs (Wildflowers)

- Anise (Lavender) Hyssop (*Agastache foeniculum*) – Mesic–Dry
- Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) – Mesic–Dry
- Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) – Wet–Mesic
- Canada (Showy) Tick Trefoil (*Desmodium canadense*) – Mesic
- Pale Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea pallida*) – Mesic–Dry
- Spotted Joe-Pye Weed (*Eutrochium maculatum*) – Wet–Mesic
- Dense Blazing Star (*Liatris spicata*) – Wet–Mesic
- Great Blue Lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica*) – Wet
- Wild Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*) – Mesic–Dry
- Grayhead Coneflower (*Ratibida pinnata*) – Mesic
- Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*) – Mesic–Dry
- New England Aster (*Symphotrichum novae-angliae*) – Mesic
- Blue Vervain (*Verbena hastata*) – Wet–Mesic
- New York Ironweed (*Vernonia noveboracensis*) – Wet–Mesic

Native Grasses

- Big Bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*) – Mesic
- Sideoats Grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*) – Dry–Mesic
- Canada Wild Rye (*Elymus canadensis*) – Mesic
- Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*) – Wet–Mesic

Recommended Ratios by Habitat Type

Shoreline & Wetland Edge (Wet-Wet Mesic)

- Forbs 60% / Grasses 40%
Key species: Swamp Milkweed, Blue Vervain, Great Blue Lobelia, Joe-Pye Weed, Blazing Star, Ironweed, Switchgrass

Lowland (Mesic)

- Forbs 50% / Grasses 50%
Balanced mix for stability and biodiversity

Upland Transition (Mesic-Dry)

- Forbs 70% / Grasses 30%
Key species: Anise Hyssop, Bergamot, Black-eyed Susan, Pale Coneflower, Sideoats Grama

Seed Sourcing Requirements

- Must be native to Northeastern Ontario Seed Zones
- Purity ≥ **85%** germination ≥ **70%**
- Supplier must provide origin, purity and germination documentation
- No cultivars, hybrids, or non-native substitutions

Application & Establishment Guidelines

- **Timing: Late fall preferred (post-October 15).** Spring seeding is also acceptable. Early spring sowing may be completed outdoors from April to July, if seeds have been overwintered/ stratified for 6-8 weeks. If seeds cannot be stratified, many species will not germinate until the following spring, and overall germination rates may be slightly reduced.
- **Preparation: Removal of invasive species is critical** before planting. Ground preparation is very important for success – Remove invasives thoroughly, lightly rake the area, and avoid any deep soil disturbance.
- **Seeding:** Broadcast or drill; press seeds lightly into soil (<1/4 inch)
- **Mulching:** Light, weed-free straw on exposed soils or slopes
- **Maintenance:** Mow competing grasses to 10-15 cm in Year 1; water only during prolonged drought

Compliance Requirements

Proponents must submit:

- Seed list with proportions
- Supplier documentation
- Seeding & maintenance plan

Shrub Component (Supplementary Planting)

Shrubs are recommended to enhance structure, stabilize soils, and provide wildlife habitat. Due to propagation requirements, shrubs are usually planted as seedlings or bare-root stock, not direct-seeded.

Recommended Native Shrubs

- Serviceberries
- Red Osier Dogwood
- Honeysuckle
- Wintergreen
- Sheep Laurel
- Labrador-Tea
- Mountain Ash
- Ground Hemlock

Planting Notes:

- Plant shrubs 2-3 m spacing for optimal growth
- Mulch around seedlings to retain moisture and reduce competition.
- Shrubs can be planted spring or fall, depending on availability and site conditions.