

# Design Standards Letter

Letter Number: **G-1990-04**

Letter Date: **07/13/1990**

Effective Date: **07/13/1990**

Section/Plan No.: **None**

Subject: **Seeding Procedures for Native Plants**

## Body

-----  
The use of native grasses and wildflowers on unmowed areas of the right of way is recommended for projects in undeveloped areas (rural). Native plant seeding mixtures for projects in rural areas of the state are shown below:

**POUNDS OF PURE  
LIVE SEED  
SPECIES PER ACRE**

**Areas beyond 30' from the pavement and/or 3:1 or steeper slopes:(Unmowed areas)**

**Tall fescue 8  
Big Bluestem (Debearded) 3  
Little Bluestem (Debearded) 2  
Indiangrass (Debearded) 2  
Sideoats Grama 1 1/2  
Switchgrass 1/2**

**Native plant seeding mixtures are not to be used in areas on the project which will be mowed, such as shoulders, sight distance areas and medians. Seeding mixtures to be used in areas of the right of way which will be mowed are shown below:**

**All right of way mowed areas in District 7, 8, 9 and 10:**

**Tall Fescue 40  
White Clover 2 1/2**

**All right of way mowed areas in District 1 through 6:**

**Tall Fescue 36  
Birdsfoot Trefoil 6**

**Native plants are not desirable at all locations and should not be used indiscriminately. However, they have many attributes and should be used where practical.**

**A new pay item 805-20.00, Native Plant Seeding per 1/10 acre will be effective with the September 1990 bid opening. All other seeding will be included under the existing pay item 805-10.00.**

**Generally, when using native plants the fertilizer and effective neutralizing material (ENM) recommendations should be cut in half. Nitrogen (N) should not exceed 40 pounds per acre and P205 and K20 should not be less than 40 pounds per acre regardless of the original recommendations.**

**The native grasses seeding mixtures should be substituted for prior seeding mixtures recommended by maintenance and traffic on those projects where applicable. We recommend changing seeding mixtures for projects in undeveloped areas in accordance with the above instructions.**