

POP UP GARDEN TOUR

The Grimes and Cotton Residences
Carmel, IN



Indiana Native
Plant Society
Central Chapter

Turf to Natives

Low Growing Prairie for Clay Soils Seed Mix

Prairie Nursery

Nodding Pink Onion	Smooth Penstemon
Smooth Aster	Black Eyed Susan
Canada Milk Vetch	Ohio Goldenrod
Cream False Indigo	Stiff Goldenrod
Lanceleaf Coreopsis	Ohio Spiderwort
White Prairie Clover	Golden Alexanders
Purple Prairie Clover	Sideoats Grama
Shootingstar	Prairie Brome Grass
Purple Coneflower	Little Bluestem
Prairie Blazingstar	Prairie Dropseed
Wild Quinine	Fox Sedge

Project Timeline

October 2017 - Initial glyphosate application, second application two weeks later

March 2018 - Dethatched grass 1-2" down, tilled area

April 2018 - Cold and dry weather led to no weeds coming up

Early May 2018 - Power raked, hand seeded area with Prairie Nursery seed mix mixed with peat. Rolled area. Watered daily.

June 2018 - Heavy weed pressure. Used string trimmer throughout summer to keep growth under 9 inches in height (annual weed ctrl)

Spring/Summer 2019 - Grimes cut low at the beginning of season. Cottons left growth standing. Seeing a lot of black-eyed susan and purple coneflower and some coreopsis and wild quinine. Manual removal of pokeweed, thistle, and marestalk.



Whether you have 10 square feet or 10 acres, replacing turf grass with native plants is a great way to reduce maintenance on ecologically sterile areas of your property and replace them with vibrant, diverse native plants that support pollinators, wildlife, water quality, our ecological heritage, and our ecosystem.

Planning

Consider the existing vegetation on your property as well as underground and above ground utilities, easements, invasive species and potential weed pressure. Use local resources such as your SWCD, INPS chapter and members, Master Gardeners, and Grow Indiana Native resources to guide planning and source quality seed and/or plants.

Terminate existing turfgrass

- Smother/solarize - Use mulch, newsprint, cardboard, tarps or other materials to kill grass. This method can take as little as 60 days but often requires a full growing season for an effective kill.
- Sod cutter- A sod cutter can also be used on lawns free of perennial weeds.
- Till - Avoid tilling if possible as it can expose weed seeds.
- Herbicide - Glyphosate applications in the fall and/or spring can be successful for prep. Wait 10 days before seeding. It is possible to apply herbicide, mow/scalp the area, and seed directly into dead grass. Rake or lightly roll seed in.
 - Note- while organic is great, don't immediately discount herbicide use. For some homeowners, a timely and properly applied herbicide can aid in a transition from a resource intensive land use (turfgrass) to a beneficial land use.

Seed/Plant - Mid-September - late November is a great time to seed natives.

Fall plantings favor flowers and don't require watering.

March - April seeding favors grasses.

May - June seeding allows for more soil preparation and spring weed control but may require supplemental watering.

Maintain - Weed control during the first years is critical. Mowing will be necessary ~1x month the first year to combat annual weeds. Target noxious weeds with hand pulling or herbicide. More info is available.

Enjoy - Consider certifying your garden through the Grow Indiana Native Program. It's free!

Notes-

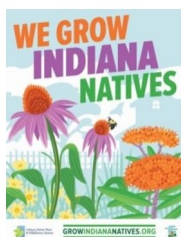
- Seeds should be planted no more than 1/4 inch deep.
- Many natives require cold stratification to germinate. A fall or winter seeding is great to provide stratification naturally.
- Erosion prone sites may require a cover crop of oats and rye or an erosion control blanket.
- Seeded areas take patience! It's often three years before areas become successfully established.
- Native areas are lower maintenance but not no maintenance.

Need more info and details? Checkout the resources, guides, and links at hamiltonswcd.org/seedpack & IndianaNativePlants.org

Interested in native seed/plant sourcing or landscape design?

www.hamiltonswcd.org/where-to-buy-native-plants

www.GrowIndianaNatives.org



July 2018



May 2019



July 2019