



# WNY PRISM

*Partnering to Protect Western New York from Invasive Species*

## Best Management Practices: Restoration Seed Mixes

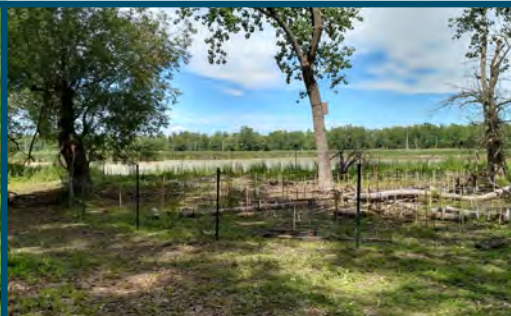
Restoration of native plants is an important component of invasive species management. Healthy native plant communities have the ability to provide increased resilience against establishment of invasive species. When used strategically, in combination with additional Best Management Practices for invasive species management, native plant restoration can help ensure invasive species removal efforts are sustained while also providing habitat for wildlife, improved soil, water and air quality, and opportunities for recreation.

The seed mixes and Best Management Practices (BMP) presented here are designed for use in areas with previously high invasive species cover where invasive species removal, through use of BMP, has taken place. Previous management is essential as newly seeded native plants will not outcompete established invasive species infestations, and continued monitoring and management will be necessary throughout the restoration process.

Species were selected based on several criteria and separated into two lists: Riparian and Upland. Selected species are native to western New York, quick to establish, take up space, produce a lot of seed, grow in variable soil conditions/quality, are commonly available, and are less expensive than alternatives. The species may be reorganized into custom lists based on the hydric conditions of the restoration site.

Seeding rates for restoration plantings can range from 20 to 80 seeds per square feet. A higher or lower rate can be used based on site conditions and/or your budget. If the restoration site has a native plant community already established, you may choose to seed at a lower rate. However, if the site is highly degraded with little to no native plant community and high invasive species pressure, a higher rate may be necessary.

If the species selected represent the biodiversity goals for the site, no additional planting is necessary. However, additional species may be added, either through seed, seedlings or plugs, to improve resiliency after 3 years.



# Best Management Practices: Restoration Seed Mixes

## Restoration Seed Mixes

### Riparian - Wetland Species

Common Name	Species	Group
Swamp Milkweed	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	Forb
Bluejoint Grass	<i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i>	Grass
Cosmos Sedge	<i>Carex comosa</i>	Sedge
Nodding Sedge	<i>Carex crinita</i>	Sedge
Hop Sedge	<i>Carex lupulina</i>	Sedge
Lurid Sedge	<i>Carex lurida</i>	Sedge
Fox Sedge	<i>Carex vulpinoidea</i>	Sedge
Riverbank Wild Rye	<i>Elymus riparius</i>	Grass
Virginia Wild Rye	<i>Elymus virginicus</i>	Grass
Joe-Pye Weed	<i>Eutrochium purpureum</i>	Forb
Reed Meadow Grass	<i>Glyceria grandis</i>	Grass
Common Rush	<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Rush
Cardinal Flower	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	Forb
Foxglove Beard-Tongue	<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>	Forb
Woolgrass	<i>Scirpus cyperinus</i>	Sedge
Nodding Bulrush	<i>Scirpus pendulus</i>	Sedge
Rough Goldenrod	<i>Solidago rugosa</i>	Forb
Showy Goldenrod	<i>Solidago speciosa</i>	Forb
New England Aster	<i>Symphotrichum novae-angliae</i>	Forb
Tall Vervain	<i>Verbena hastata</i>	Forb

### Restoration Tips

- ⇒ Remove invasive species using recommended BMP. In areas with significant invasives species cover, manage species for at least 3 years before restoring native plants.
- ⇒ Select appropriate seed mix and make substitutions based on availability. Diversity is important, try to plant at least 12 species.
- ⇒ Keep a variety of grasses, sedges and forbs, and when in doubt, lean heavier into the grasses and sedges.
- ⇒ Plant in the fall, ahead of a rain or snow pack to protect the seed and to allow for over-wintering.
- ⇒ Monitor your site and remove invasive species as they emerge.
- ⇒ You may mow your restoration during year 1, but moving forward allow your native plants to flower and seed. The additional seed will begin to reform the native seedbank.
- ⇒ After a few years, consider adding diversity to your restoration through seed, seedlings and plugs.

Mixes were developed in partnership with the Lake Erie Watershed Protection Alliance (LEWPA) with the purpose of increasing the resiliency of native restoration after invasive species removal efforts.

Find a list of Native Plant Suppliers at [www.wnyprism.org/management/best](http://www.wnyprism.org/management/best)

[-management-practices/](http://www.wnyprism.org/management/best-management-practices/)

### Upland (Dry-Mesic) Species

Common Name	Species	Group
Common Milkweed	<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	Forb
Showy Ticktrefoil	<i>Desmodium canadense</i>	Legume
Flat-Topped Aster	<i>Doellingeria umbellata</i>	Forb
Canada Wild Rye	<i>Elymus canadensis</i>	Grass
Virginia Wild Rye	<i>Elymus virginicus</i>	Grass
Round-headed Bush Clover	<i>Lespedeza capitata</i>	Legume
Bee Balm	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	Forb
Foxglove Beard-Tongue	<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>	Forb
Hairy Beard-Tongue	<i>Penstemon hirsutus</i>	Forb
Blackeyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	Forb
Tall Coneflower	<i>Rudbeckia laciniata</i>	Forb
Little Blue Stem	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	Grass
Zig-zag Goldenrod	<i>Solidago flexicaulis</i>	Forb
Narrow-leaved Goldenrod	<i>Solidago graminifolia</i>	Forb
Early Goldenrod	<i>Solidago junacea</i>	Forb
Golden Alexander	<i>Zizia aurea</i>	Forb

