



tallgrass RESTORATION, LLC

Tallgrass Prairie Facts

MOTHER NATURE KNOWS BEST

A prairie is an ecosystem composed largely of grasses but with hundreds of species of flowering plants in the mix. These places are home to dozens of species of birds, animals large and small, and tens of thousands of vitality important insects.

- Y Prairies once dominated the Midwestern landscape for over ten thousand years and have only been absent from our countryside for the past 200 years.
- Y Native prairie root systems are the best natural soil anchors on earth. One acre of established prairie can produce 24,000 pounds of roots.
- Y One acre of est. prairie can absorb 9 inches of rainfall per hour before runoff occurs, and will intercept as much as 53 tons of water during a 1-inch per hour rain event.
- Y Prairie planted along roadsides and in ditches makes our highways safer by increasing the holding capacity for snow in the ditch.
- Y Natural competition of prairie plants reduces the occurrence of weeds in an area. Greater prairie diversity creates greater biotic barriers to prevent weed invasion.
- Y One acre of reconstructed prairie can produce more net bio-energy than the same amount of land used to grow corn for ethanol.

NATIVE TALLGRASS PRAIRIE IS THE MOST ENDANGERED ECOSYSTEM IN NORTH AMERICA. YOUR COMPANY CAN HELP RESTORE IT WHILE SAVING MONEY. WE CAN HELP.

Over the last 100 years the historic appearance of the American landscape has changed dramatically. European- inspired landscaped design, a desire for neatness and order, and the marketing campaigns of an ever-growing lawn care industry have all conspired toward turning America into a land dominated by lawn and concrete.

Unfortunately having such an impact on our landscape has resulted in many negative impacts to our environment. According to the U.S. E.P.A., lawn care machinery alone accounts for up to 33% of all air pollution in our urban areas. Pesticides have had unintended impacts on many organisms, including "useful" insects, our pets and even our children.

Not to mention, fertilizers also end up in our water. They runoff into streams and lakes creating stinking algae blooms and fish kills in local waters, and "dead zones" in the oceans.

Meanwhile, the costs of maintaining turf lawn have come to average over \$1000 per acre each year. Large and small property managers alike, spend thousands of dollars and hours each year maintaining an ecologically and economically unsustainable custom. While lawns do have their place, a prairie is something to consider as an overall better, cleaner, less expensive, and more beautiful way to landscape a property.

ENVIRONMENTALLY and ECONOMICALLY SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPING

The cost of installing and maintaining a prairie is significantly less expensive than that of maintaining existing turf grass.

Once established, the maintenance costs of prairie are 1/10th the cost of maintaining a lawn.

Native plants come in a wide variety allowing for successful plantings in any soil type.

Prairie root systems naturally prevent soil erosion and filter harmful impurities from water.

ANNUAL PER ACRE EXPENSE*

	TURF LAWN	NATIVE PRAIRIE
Year 1	\$10,670	\$5,975
Year 5	\$5,080	\$2,400
Annually	\$6,455	\$700

**Project is larger than 1 acre, contiguous. Costs are not adjusted for inflation, watering natives during the plug establishment period of up to 90 days is recommended but not included in cost. Costs vary among different firms, but overall savings are similar.*

Turf Lawn includes seed installation, annual mowing, fertilization and watering. Additionally, over-seeding and soil aeration are required to maintain the long-term health and esthetic vigor of the property.

Native Prairie includes annual weeding for approx. the first 3 years following seed installation, then only prescription burn applications as needed to remove unwanted plant material and to initiate new growth. Prairie diversity and inclusion of annual and perennial species allow for a longer growing season.

THE TALLGRASS DIFFERENCE

Replacing a lawn, small or large, is a great opportunity to provide habitat for wildlife. Not only will you be establishing a variety of beautiful wildflowers, but you will also be providing homes for the songbirds, butterflies and other rare animals that live in prairies.

Prairies conserve water too. Native prairie plants are specially adapted to our local climate. They never need watering and will continue to stay green and flower even in drought years. Furthermore, their deep roots help water infiltrate into the soil recharging our depleted groundwater stores. Sturdy prairie plants can even help stop erosion on slopes and shorelines. This not only prevents damage to your property, it also keeps silt from clogging our streams and rivers.

Tallgrass Restoration has been reestablishing natural landscapes like prairies, woodlands and wetlands for over a decade. We can establish a prairie through planting and seeding. Continued stewardship is necessary for the first few years to help the prairie plants become established and discourage weeds that might otherwise take over the site, but before long your prairie will be growing and blooming on its own with very little maintenance required.

PRAIRIE SOD TECHNOLOGY

A SOLUTION WITH INSTANT ESTHETIC GRATIFICATION



Prairie sod is fully grown in greenhouses (left) before installing on-site (right) and can provide results 2-3 years quicker than seeding alone.

TALLGRASS HAS A PROVEN RECORD OF ESTABLISHING HEALTHY AND SUCCESSFUL PRAIRIES.