

## Nevada Foundation Seed Program – Research Application

Division of Plant Health and Compliance

The Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) is offering free native seed for cultivation and research through the Foundation Seed Program. This is a formal Request for Applications (RFA).

**Fall seed application due October 9, 2026, by 5:00 p.m.**

Applications should be emailed to [seed@agri.nv.gov](mailto:seed@agri.nv.gov) or mailed to:  
Nevada Department of Agriculture  
ATTN: Seed Program  
405 South 21<sup>st</sup> Street  
Sparks, NV 89431

*For additional information, or if you have any questions regarding this RFA, contact Stephen Kielius at [seed@agri.nv.gov](mailto:seed@agri.nv.gov) or (775) 399-0284.*

### Background information

With the increasing prevalence of wildfires and increased priority for rehabilitation and restoration projects, the need for locally adapted native plant species has never been higher. However, the majority of the seed used in Nevada is not genetically appropriate for the areas in which it is planted, but rather, adapted to cooler and wetter growing conditions than the Great Basin. The NDA's Foundation Seed Program aims to provide *free* native seed to producers and researchers so they may increase Nevada's available seed stock to support rehabilitation and restoration efforts.

### Program goals

- The primary goal of the Foundation Seed Program is to increase the availability of high-quality, locally adapted native seed in Nevada, specifically to aid in rehabilitation and restoration efforts across the state.
- The second goal of the Foundation Seed Program is to support producers who consider cultivation of native species as an alternate, drought-resistant crop by reducing barriers to entry.
- The third goal of the Foundation Seed Program is to support researchers that are working to further the efforts of our first two goals by providing native seed at no cost for related research projects such as genetic studies, germination trials, cultural practices development, and common garden studies.

## Applicant eligibility

**All applicants must be able and willing to comply with the following:**

- A portion of seed yield **may** be required to be returned to the Foundation Seed Program. Amounts will be determined on a case-by-case basis at the time of award and shall not exceed two times the amount of requested seed.
- The applicant and growing site must comply with all county/city ordinances.
- Must have appropriate water rights for the intended use at the site location.
- Must be the legal landowner *or* have a notarized statement from the landowner that gives authorization of native seed cultivation on the parcel and allows NDA staff access to the property for inspections.
- The applicant must perform noxious weed control in accordance with [NRS 555](#). (May not be applicable for research applications).
- Applicants must be a Nevada resident to apply.
- The majority of the growing area must reside within Nevada to be considered for seed award.
- Must make arrangements to receive awarded seed within two weeks of being notified of acceptance into the Foundation Seed Program. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of awarded seed unless the applicant receives prior approval from the NDA.
- The applicant must arrange for findings to be published in a peer-reviewed scientific journal, or made available to the public in an alternate format approved by the NDA, for any research projects involving seed acquired from the Foundation Seed Program. In addition, all results must be provided to the NDA after the conclusion of the research project.

## Proposal requirements

**All of the following must be included in your application:**

- Completed application form;
- Research project abstract;
- Explanation of how the project will meet the goals of the Foundation Seed Program;
- The technical approach that the project will take including all steps, methods, a timeline of the research project, and the data you plan to gather;
- A map that describes the location and features of the field area, including access details;
- A water rights permit **may** be required depending on project parameters.
  - *Applicants without appropriate water rights risk application denial.*
  - *For more information, contact Nevada Division of Water Resources at (775) 684-2800.*

## Resources

- [NDA's Seed Program webpage](#): Contains seed program contact information, seed certification applications and other seed-related resources.
- [Nevada Native Seed Partnership's webpage](#): Contains additional resources and contact information for local native plant experts.
- [USDA PLANTS Database](#): Contains information on many native plant species that may be useful for cultivation.

**Nevada Foundation Seed Program - Application form**  
Division of Plant Health and Compliance



**Before beginning your application, please read through the entire Request for Applications.**

**Applicant details**

- Name: \_\_\_\_\_
- Organization name: \_\_\_\_\_
- Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_
- Primary Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_
- Email address\*: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*NOTICE: The Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) requires an email address for business communications and notice of important industry updates. By providing your email address, you agree to receive communications from the NDA.*

☐ *Select here if you do NOT want to receive industry updates and notice of items that could impact your business.*

**Field site details**

- Estimated project size (Acres/Sq. ft.): \_\_\_\_\_
- Parcel #: \_\_\_\_\_
- Lat/Long: \_\_\_\_\_
- Physical address: \_\_\_\_\_
- Land ownership: \_\_\_\_\_
- Water rights permit # (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

*Please describe location and site features, and provide a map to detail the field area, including access details.*

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## Foundation Seed Program Goals

*Please describe how your project will support the goals of the Foundation Seed Program. You must describe how your project will meet at least one of these goals, but extra consideration may be given to those that can meet multiple goals. If you need additional space, feel free to attach separate pages or documents to your application.*

1. The Foundation Seed Program seeks to increase the availability of high-quality, locally adapted native seed in Nevada.
2. The Foundation Seed Program seeks to support producers who consider cultivation of native species as an alternate, drought-resistant crop by reducing barriers to entry.
3. The Foundation Seed Program seeks to support our wildlands restoration partners by increasing the availability of appropriate seedstock.

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## Project Abstract

*Please provide a concise summary of your project. If you need additional space, feel free to attach separate pages or documents to your application.*

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## Technical Approach

*Please describe how your project will be performed. Be sure to include all steps, methods, a timeline of the project, and data you plan to gather. If you need additional space, feel free to attach separate pages or documents to your application.*

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## Species details

- Species and amount (pounds, ounces, grams) desired:

*(Please reference the NDA seed species availability list for current inventory. If more than one species is desired, please indicate.)*

- Suggest potential species to be added to the Foundation Seed Program:

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## Policy/Procedure acknowledgment

I, \_\_\_\_\_, declare under penalty of perjury that the provided information is true and correct and that I am the owner or person with legal control of and authority to bind, the herein named applicant, and that I have read and understand all conditions and obligations stated herein. I accept all liability associated with the production of native seed and accept all responsibilities associated with production. I understand and:

- I certify that my findings will be made public either in a scientific journal or by some other means. \_\_\_\_\_  
*Initials*
- I agree to allow the NDA to make my findings public at such a time that the project is completed. \_\_\_\_\_  
*Initials*
- I agree to follow the timeline set forth in this application to the best of my ability and to provide updates to the NDA at regular intervals as determined by the NDA. \_\_\_\_\_  
*Initials*
- I agree to periodic inspections performed by trained NDA staff, if applicable. \_\_\_\_\_  
*Initials*
- I agree to perform noxious weed control, in accordance with NRS 555, during the project timeline, if applicable. \_\_\_\_\_  
*Initials*
- I certify that the growing site is compliant with all county/city ordinance(s), if applicable.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Initials*

- I certify that I am the legal landowner of the research site *or* have a notarized statement from the landowner authorizing the cultivation of native seed on the parcel and allow NDA staff access to the property for inspections, if applicable. \_\_\_\_\_  
*Initials*
- I understand that I must make arrangements to receive the awarded seed within two weeks of being notified of acceptance into the Foundation Seed Program. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of awarded seed unless I have received prior approval from the NDA. \_\_\_\_\_  
*Initials*
- I understand that I **may** be required to harvest, clean, and return a certain amount of seed depending on how much seed and of what species that I request from the Foundation Seed Program, if in line with my research project. The amount will be pre-determined prior to entering any agreements with the NDA. \_\_\_\_\_  
*Initials*

**Please confirm the following attachments before submitting:**

- Abstract
- How your project meets program goals
- Technical Approach
- Map of research area

**Current Available Species**  
Division of Plant Health and Compliance



| <b>Genus</b>           | <b>Species</b>      | <b>Common</b>            | <b>Type</b>     | <b>Restoration Priority</b> | <b>Species Selection</b> |
|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>Elymus</i>          | <i>elymoides</i>    | Squirreltail             | Perennial Grass | Very High                   |                          |
| <i>Poa</i>             | <i>secunda</i>      | Sandberg's Bluegrass     | Perennial Grass | Very High                   |                          |
| <i>Achnatherum</i>     | <i>hymenoides</i>   | Indian Ricegrass         | Perennial Grass | Very High                   |                          |
| <i>Pseudoroegneria</i> | <i>spicata</i>      | Bluebunch Wheatgrass     | Perennial Grass | Very High                   |                          |
| <i>Sphaeralcea</i>     | <i>ambigua</i>      | Desert Globemallow       | Perennial Forb  | Very High                   |                          |
| <i>Machaeranthera</i>  | <i>canescens</i>    | Hoary Tansyaster         | Perennial Forb  | High                        |                          |
| <i>Chaenactis</i>      | <i>douglasii</i>    | Douglas' Dustymaidens    | Perennial Forb  | High                        |                          |
| <i>Crepis</i>          | <i>acuminata</i>    | Tapertip Hawksbeard      | Perennial Forb  | High                        |                          |
| <i>Achnatherum</i>     | <i>thurberianum</i> | Thurber's Needlegrass    | Perennial Grass | High                        |                          |
| <i>Cleome</i>          | <i>lutea</i>        | Yellow Beeplant          | Perennial Forb  | High                        |                          |
| <i>Eriogonum</i>       | <i>umbellatum</i>   | Sulphur-flower Buckwheat | Perennial Forb  | Medium                      |                          |
| <i>Balsamorhiza</i>    | <i>sagittata</i>    | Arrowleaf Balsamroot     | Perennial Forb  | Medium                      |                          |
| <i>Cleome</i>          | <i>serrulata</i>    | Rocky Mountain Beeplant  | Perennial Forb  | Medium                      |                          |
| <i>Leymus</i>          | <i>cinereus</i>     | Great Basin Wildrye      | Perennial Grass | Medium                      |                          |
| <i>Penstemon</i>       | <i>speciosus</i>    | Royal Penstemon          | Perennial Forb  | Medium                      |                          |

*Please indicate which species or multiple species you would like to request by placing a check mark under the "Species Selection" column. Some species may be subject to market availability.*