Fall seed application due November 11, 2022, by 5:00 p.m.

Spring seed application due February 15, 2023, by 5:00 p.m.

The Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) announces the availability of free native seed for cultivation from the Foundation Seed Program. This is a formal request for applications.

Applications should be emailed to skielius@agri.nv.gov or mailed hard copy to:
Nevada Department of Agriculture
ATTN: Seed Program
405 South 21st Street
Sparks, NV 89431

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

Background information:
With the increasing prevalence of wildfires, and increased priority for 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 is available in this region. The Foundation Seed Program aims to provide free native seed to producers so that they may increase Nevada’s available seed stock to support wildfire restoration efforts. In return, the program asks that a portion of the applicant’s yield be returned at no cost to create a sustainable foundation program. The amount of seed returned to the program will be determined at the time of seed award on a case-by-case basis, not to exceed twice as many pounds as awarded. The applicant is then free to use or sell the remainder of their yield as they see fit.

Applicant eligibility:
All applicants must be able to comply with the following:

- A portion of seed yield will be required to be returned to the Foundation Seed Program. Amount 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.
- Applicant must have appropriate water rights for the intended use at the site location.
- Applicant must be the legal landowner or have a notarized statement from the landowner that gives authorization of native seed cultivation on the parcel and allow NDA staff access to the property for inspections.
• The applicant must perform noxious weed control, in accordance with NRS 555, during the project.
• The applicant must have the seed lot certified to the appropriate level of eligibility. The producer should adhere to the NDA’s inspection criterion and shall coordinate with inspectors for scheduling of certification inspections. The costs associated with certification are listed on the NDA Seed Program Webpage (link provided below).
  o Each seed lot will be evaluated and assessed to determine best mode of action for certified designations. These will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and representatives of the Department will be responsible for informing awardees regarding certification standards and requirements.
• Applicant must be a Nevada resident to apply.
• The majority of the growing area must reside within Nevada to be considered for seed award.

Proposal requirements:
Applications will be scored and awarded on a competitive basis. **All of the following must be included with your application:**
• Completed application
• A map that describes the location and features of the field area, including access details
• A detailed timeline describing activities related to production. A grading rubric along with an example timeline will be provided at the end of this RFA.
• A water rights permit is required for all commercial production. Applicants without appropriate water rights risk application denial. For more information, contact Nevada Division of Water Resources at (775) 684-2800.
• If listing a business name, it must be a registered business through the Secretary of State’s office. A copy of the applicant’s Nevada business license must be included with the application.

Resources:
• **NDA’s Seed Program webpage**
  o Contains seed program contact information, seed certification applications and other seed related resources
• **Nevada Native Seed Partnership’s webpage**
  o Contains additional resources and contact information for local native plant experts
• **USDA PLANTS Database**
  o Contains information on many native plant species that may be useful for cultivation
**Application rubric:**
Applicants who meet all the minimum requirements of the program will be evaluated using the following criteria to determine distribution of awards.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Strong (3 points)</th>
<th>Satisfactory (2 points)</th>
<th>Needs improvement (1 point)</th>
<th>Missing project elements (0 points)</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Project scope</strong></td>
<td>Timeline of project is clearly defined. Producer has listed major activities involved with production.</td>
<td>Timeline of project is fairly well defined. Producer has listed most major activities involved with production. One or two questions may arise.</td>
<td>Timeline of project is vague, and not enough detail is provided to identify potential outcomes.</td>
<td>Insufficient information or does not meet program requirements.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Familiarity with species</strong></td>
<td>Producer shows a clear familiarity with the species they want to work with, and their timeline reflects it.</td>
<td>There are some uncertainties within the timeline that may indicate the producer is not fully familiarized with a species.</td>
<td>Species specific requirements are vague or do not match production practices.</td>
<td>Insufficient information or does not meet program requirements.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Project sustainability</strong></td>
<td>This is a sustainable project that will allow the species to produce more than one generation of seed (if applicable) and is backed by supporting information.</td>
<td>This is a sustainable project that will allow the species to produce one generation. Some questions may arise regarding the project’s sustainability.</td>
<td>It is unclear or not fully supported if the project will allow the species to produce one generation. There are multiple questions on the project’s sustainability.</td>
<td>Insufficient information or does not meet program requirements.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>First-time grower bonus point</strong></td>
<td>In an effort to expand the program, a bonus point will be awarded to those applicants that have never produced native seed.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Example timeline:**

This example is intended to show exactly what we are looking for. **Note that each species should have its own timeline and the information therein should be specific to that species.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall 2022</th>
<th>Spring 2023</th>
<th>Summer 2023</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Acid wash seed to scarify seed coating</td>
<td>• Apply Bromoxynil as needed to control weeds</td>
<td>• Harvest via windrowing approximately mid-July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Plant at depth of 1”</td>
<td>• Apply insecticides as needed</td>
<td>• Allow swath to cure for 5-7 days then re-thresh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Row spacing at 24”</td>
<td>• Mechanical weeding measures as needed</td>
<td>• Dry seed immediately after combining until moisture content reaches 12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Rate of 8 lbs. PLS per acre</td>
<td>• Irrigation as needed, not to exceed 14” of water per acre</td>
<td>• Clean seed using an air/screen machine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Fertilize as needed, approximately 80 pounds of nitrogen per acre</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Before beginning your application, please read through the entire Request for Applications.

Applicant details
- Name: _______________________________
- Business name: _______________________________________
- Contact person: __________________________________________
- Phone number: _______________________________________
- Mailing address: __________________________________________
- 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
- Acreage of project: __________________________________________
- Parcel #: ___________________________________________________
- Lat/Long: ___________________________________________________
- Physical address: ____________________________________________
- Land ownership: _____________________________________________
- Water rights permit # (if applicable): ___________________________

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

Species details
- Species desired: ____________________________________________
(Please reference the NDA seed species availability list for current inventory.)
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 agree:

- I agree to a minimum of source ID certification and to notify the NDA at least 15 days prior to harvest to schedule inspection. ______
  \textit{Initials}
- I agree to periodic inspections performed by trained NDA staff. ______
  \textit{Initials}
- I agree to perform noxious weed control, in accordance with NRS 555, during the project timeline. ______
  \textit{Initials}
- I agree to return a minimum percent of cleaned seed yield, determined on a per species basis by the NDA. ______
  \textit{Initials}
- I agree to accurately disclose the total yield of the seed harvest. ______
  \textit{Initials}
- I certify that the growing site is compliant with all county/city ordinance(s). ______
  \textit{Initials}
- I certify that I am the legal landowner of the growing site \textit{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. ______
  \textit{Initials}

Please confirm the following attachments before submitting:
- Map of field
- Timeline of production activities
- Nevada business license (if applicable)
- Notarized statement from landowner authorizing native seed cultivation on the parcel and allowing NDA staff access to property for regulatory inspections (if applicable)
- Water rights permit (if applicable)
## Current available species

**Division of Plant Health and Compliance**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Seeding Timeframe</th>
<th>Elevation Collected</th>
<th>Annual Precip</th>
<th>County Collected</th>
<th>State Collected</th>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Max Lbs. Awarded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yellow Beeplant</td>
<td><em>Cleome lutea</em></td>
<td>Late Fall</td>
<td>5329'</td>
<td>2.88&quot;</td>
<td>Nye</td>
<td>NV</td>
<td>VNS</td>
<td>15 lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sulphur Flower Buckwheat</td>
<td><em>Eriogonum umbellatum</em></td>
<td>Late Fall</td>
<td>6,791'</td>
<td>14.7&quot;</td>
<td>Mono</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>VNS</td>
<td>14 lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandberg Bluegrass</td>
<td><em>Poa secunda</em></td>
<td>Late Fall/Early Spring</td>
<td>5,817'</td>
<td>31&quot;</td>
<td>Nevada</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>VNS</td>
<td>15 lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian Ricegrass</td>
<td><em>Achnatherum hymenoides</em></td>
<td>Late Fall/Early Spring</td>
<td>3,930'</td>
<td>5.7&quot;</td>
<td>Inyo</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>VNS</td>
<td>20 lbs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>