



Water Resources Department

# Buffalograss Seed Rebate Program

**IMPORTANT:** Read all information on page 2 of this application.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Buffalograss seed planting: \_\_\_\_\_

(if different than mailing address)

City of Hays Water Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Irrigate with: City water \_\_\_\_ Well water \_\_\_\_

(for address of Buffalograss seed planting)

Pictures of my Buffalograss may be used for rebate program publicity, etc. : Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

(names and addresses will not be shared publicly without prior consent)

*I have read, understand, and agree to the terms and conditions as stated on the 2nd page of this application. Please be advised that IRS regulations require a 1099-MISC be sent to any person receiving a rebate greater than \$600, in which case a W9 form will need to be submitted at the time of payment:*

Applicant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**For more information,** contact Water Conservation at (785) 628-7350.

This program provides financial assistance to customers wishing to plant Buffalograss lawns. The City of Hays does not endorse or recommend specific brands, products or dealers. Buffalograss seed selection and installation is the responsibility of the applicant. The City assumes no responsibility for any damage that may occur to an applicant's property as a result of participation in this rebate program. Due to circumstances beyond its control, the City cannot guarantee that participation in the Buffalograss Seed rebate program will result in lower utility costs.

## OFFICIAL USE ONLY:

Application: Approved \_\_\_\_ Denied \_\_\_\_ Sq. Ft.: \_\_\_\_\_

Pre-Inspection Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Inspected By: \_\_\_\_\_ Lb. Seed Needed: \_\_\_\_\_

Post-Inspection Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Inspected By: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Rebate Approved By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Rebate Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Purchase Order #: \_\_\_\_\_



# Buffalograss Seed Rebate Program

The City of Hays offers a \$10.00/pound seed rebate for the purchase, and successful establishment of buffalograss lawns on properties otherwise ineligible for the Turf Conversion Rebate Program. Rebate eligible practices include the following:

- ◆ Renovation of an existing lawn otherwise ineligible for the Turf Conversion Rebate Program (i.e. thin, patchy cool-season turf that is in poor condition).
- ◆ New lawn plantings where warm-season turfgrass was not previously established.

Native plant species like buffalograss have a deep root systems that allow tolerance to local environmental conditions and extended periods of drought. In addition, buffalograss requires less mowing, less fertilization, and minimal, to NO supplemental irrigation once established in comparison to cool-season turfgrass species like Tall Fescue and Kentucky Bluegrass.

## Rebate Eligibility Requirements:

- ◆ All properties with suitable growing conditions to establish buffalograss (i.e. full sun, minimal tree root competition), that do NOT otherwise qualify for the Turf Conversion Program, within the City of Hays, may qualify for this rebate program on a first come, first serve basis.
- ◆ **A pre-inspection must be completed prior to any lawn work being done.** Work completed prior to pre-inspection will NOT qualify for a rebate. Calling for a pre-inspection as the work is being done (i.e. seed is being planted, etc.) is NOT acceptable. Pre-inspections must be scheduled in advance with City of Hays staff.
- ◆ A recommended buffalograss variety must be selected and planting must occur at the appropriate time of year (typically between June 1st and August 1st) at a seeding rate of 1-3 lbs./1,000 square feet.

## Procedure:

- ◆ Contact (785) 628-7350 to schedule a pre-inspection. City staff will meet with you to see if you qualify for the program, discuss your plans and measure the lawn area you are proposing to seed to buffalograss. If you qualify, you will then be given authorization to proceed with planting.
- ◆ Complete the lawn seeding (either personally or via a qualified contractor). Keep in mind all City of Hays rules and regulations regarding landscaping and outdoor irrigation. Go to [www.haysusa.com](http://www.haysusa.com) for more information. **Keep all receipts related to the purchase of the buffalograss seed for later submission.**
- ◆ Once the buffalograss has begun to grow, contact (785) 628-7350 to schedule a post-inspection.
- ◆ After a successful post-inspection and receipt submission, allow 2+ weeks for your rebate to be processed. Payment will be made to the property owner. **Remember, Pre- and Post-inspections are required for eligibility prior to issuance of rebate.**



# Buffalograss Seed Rebate Program

## **Additional Information:**

### **Recommended Buffalograss Seed Varieties**

Currently, the following buffalograss seed varieties are recommended for our area:

Tantaka, Sharps Improved, Cody, Bison, Plains, Top Gun, Texoka

### **Why must seeding occur during the appropriate time of year?**

Buffalograss is a warm-season turfgrass; it grows most actively when it is warm and will therefore be much easier to establish in warmer soils that occur during the summer months. Ideally, buffalograss seed should be planted during the months of June and July in our area. Planting later than August 1st may put the buffalograss at risk of not becoming fully established prior to cold temperatures setting in. Buffalograss that has not had a chance to develop an established root system prior to freezing temperatures is at risk of winter desiccation/death due to the potential for young plants to be heaved out of the soil due to alternate freezing/thawing that occurs throughout the wintertime. For this rebate program, seed must be planted, between June 1st and August 1st.

### **Why will only 1-3 lbs. seed/1,000 square feet be rebated?**

Buffalograss lawns do not need to be seeded at high seeding rates to become established (as opposed to cool-season turfgrasses such as Tall Fescue with a recommended seeding rate of 6-8 lbs./1,000 sq. ft.). Buffalograss spreads by stolons (runners) which aids in lawn coverage whereas Tall Fescue is a bunch grass that does not spread. K-State Research and Extension recommends seeding buffalograss at a rate of 1-2 lbs./1,000 sq. ft. Property owners wishing to seed at a higher rate will only receive a maximum of 3 lbs. seed/1,000 sq. ft. rebate.

### **How to plant, establish, and maintain Buffalograss**

Planting a new lawn requires planning and preparation. Maintaining buffalograss is very different from maintaining cool-season turfgrass. Consult the following publications for information regarding planting, watering, and maintaining buffalograss lawns:

[Buffalograss Lawns](#) (K-State Research and Extension MF656)

[Planting A Home Lawn](#) (K-State Research and Extension MF1126)

[Watering New Lawns](#) (K-State Research and Extension MF2802)

### **Weeds!**

Don't panic if you experience weeds after planting your new buffalograss lawn. Weeds are common during the first two to three years. Once the buffalograss has become fully established; and with proper mowing and maintenance, weed presence will lessen and, those that do appear, can be managed.