The Jefferson Conservation District provides native grass seed mix designed specifically for our local mountainous areas. This “Granitic Soil Mix” is composed of eight native species that are designated for elevations of 6,000 to 10,000 feet.

The “Granitic Soil Mix” is designed for a wide variety of soils and plant communities.

Specialists from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service work cooperatively with the Jefferson Conservation District and can design custom mixes for:

- Pastures
- Hay Meadows
- Shaded Sites
- Xeriscapes
- Cover for sewage disposal systems
- Mining sites
- Steep or rocky sites
- Drainage Channels

Why Native Seed Grass?

- More drought tolerant than mixes containing non-native species
- Creates a natural look
- Provides re-vegetation without putting other native plant communities and wildlife at risk

[Contact Information]

Denver Federal Center
Building 56, Room 2604
PO Box 25426
Denver, CO 80225-0426
Type of Grasses in the “Granitic Soil Mix”

**Rocky Mountain Fescue**
Cool season dwarf bunchgrass. 4"-2' tall.

**Little Bluestem**
Warm season, long-lived bunchgrass. 1'-4' tall.

**Sheep Fescue**
Cool season dwarf bunchgrass. 6"-2' tall with fine texture.

**Indian Ricegrass**
Cool season bunchgrass. 1’-2.5’ tall with panicle type seed heads.

**Western Wheatgrass**
Cool season, long-lived sod forming grass. 1’-3’ tall with strong spreading rhizomes.

**Thickspike Wheatgrass**
Cool season, long-lived sod former. 1'-3' tall.

**Canby Bluegrass**
Cool season, short bunchgrass. 8'-16' tall.

**Switchgrass**
Warm season, long-lived patchy sodgrass. 1’3’ tall. Panicle head is 5"-18" tall.

**Steps to Successful Native Grass Seeding:**

1. **Weeding**  A thorough weeding job is essential prior to planting your seeds. If perennial noxious weeds have not been removed, they will sabotage the planting.

2. **Ripping** Compacted soils should be “ripped” or chiseled to break up any impenetrable layers.

3. **Planting** Seed should be [breaded](https://www.example.com) by hand or mechanically with hand-held or vehicle mounted spreader onto a prepared roughened seedbed. Following the seed broadcasting, one should rake or drag the soil to cover the seed as much as possible to a depth of 1/4 to 3/8”. It is okay to have some visible seed which will not germinate; seeding rates are adjusted to reflect this.

4. **Mulching** After the grass seed has been planted, a mulch of long-stemmed, weed and seed-free, **grass hay** should be used to protect the site. It is generally recommended that 1.5 tons/acre be applied, which is approximately 1 standard bale/650 square ft. It should be noted that the amount of grass hay may need to be increased with steeper slopes. To prevent the mulch from blowing or washing away, small sloping areas will generally benefit from “erosion control netting” that is laid over the mulch and anchored to the soil. It is held in place with pins and will disappear within a few years.

5. **Additional Weeding** If there are any [residual weeds](https://www.example.com) on the site, they will most likely appear before any grass seedlings. If weeds get too tall or thick, they can be cut at a 6 or 8 inch height. Herbicides should not be used until grass plants are well established.

6. **Patience** It may take two growing seasons before any reasonable establishment of grass is made. It is not uncommon to witness good stands developing even later.

**Additional Grass Seeding Tips**

- A good seedbed must be prepared to receive the seed. If the soil and weather conditions aren’t just right, the seeds will not germinate.
- Surface should be relatively smooth.
- Fertilization is not generally recommended; it tends to encourage weed growth more than enhancing grass development.
- A few inches of topsoil is critical for germination.
- The recommended planting window is between October 15th to April 30th.
- The Granitic Soil Mix can be purchased at our office located in Lakewood, CO for $10/lb.