

Native species of grass for high elevations
(bunch grasses, except Western wheatgrass)

- Bromus ciliatus* Mountain Brome
- Bromus marginatus* Mountain brome
- Chondrosium gracile* (*Bouteloua gracilis*)
Blue grama
- Elymus elymoides* Bottlebrush squirreltail
- Elymus glaucus* Blue wild rye
- Elymus trachycaulus* Slender wheatgrass
- Festuca arizonica* Arizona fescue
- Festuca idahoensis* Idaho fescue
- Festuca saximontanus* Rocky Mountain Fescue
- Koeleria macrantha* Junegrass
- Muhlenbergia Montana* Mountain muhly
- Nasella viridula* (*Stipa*) Green Needlegrass
- Pascopyrum* (*Agropyron*) *smithii* Western wheatgrass
- Poa alpine* Mountain bluegrass
- Trisetum spicatum* Spike false oat

CSU Extension in Gilpin
County sells one pound
bags of native grass mix for
revegetating leach fields or
other small areas.

303-582-9106



Colorado State University Extension

Gilpin County

For more information, call CSU Extension in
Gilpin County

303-582-9106

www.extension.colostate.edu/gilpin

**The Importance
of Reseeding
your
Leach Field**





Reseeding your leach field

Why is revegetation such a critical step?

- It allows for the proper functioning of your septic system (evapotranspiration from grassy plants is a key component to system function),
- It helps prevent the spread of noxious weeds
- It improves site aesthetics.

When to plant

Generally, the best time to seed is in the late fall, just before the first significant snowfall. The seeds will then germinate in the spring. The other good time for seeding is in late June or early July, just before the monsoonal moisture.

Preparing the Soil

Because most native grasses are well adapted to our rocky, lean soils, soil enrichment is not required, except on newly installed leach fields, where there is often little organic matter. Incorporate 1-3 inches of compost to the top 3 inches of soil to improve germination and water retention. Control any existing weeds first. Loosen soil to a depth of 3-4 inches with a rake or shovel (you can incorporate the compost at the same time)

Preparing the Seed and Sowing

Thoroughly mix the seed in a bucket with moist sand. Use a ratio of 2 parts seed, 1 part sand. Because grass seed is fluffy, this technique helps sow the seed evenly. Follow the recommended amount of seed per square foot – varies with grass type.

- Broadcast the seed/sand mixture by hand.
- Use the flat side of a rake to smooth the soil over the seeds, and lightly tamp by walking on it.

Place a thin layer of mulch (use **weed-free** straw, hay, or spun polyester gardening cloth) over the seed to retain moisture and keep birds from eating the seed.



Weeds

Septic system installation can play in the spread of noxious weeds. Many people develop a serious weed problem which began on their septic system. This is because newly disturbed bare ground, with no vegetation, is the perfect spot for weed seeds to land and germinate. In some cases, weed seeds are brought in with fill dirt, or on equipment. When possible, use dirt from the location of the installation, and if dirt must be brought in, inquire as to where it came from, and what weed seeds might be present. Ask that the installer clean their equipment of weed seeds before they start work.



The leach field should be revegetated as soon as possible, and it should be monitored closely for at least two to three growing seasons to ensure that no weed seeds were brought in. If you have any trouble identifying the weeds, please do not hesitate to bring in a sample to the Extension office (230 Norton Drive, right next to the Gilpin Community Center). Timely control of these weeds makes them much easier to eradicate, and will prevent them from spreading elsewhere on your property, and onto neighboring lands.