**Sample Long Term Maintenance Plan for Native Grass**

*Customize this form to record how the native grass should be maintained long-term. The pre-set information are suggestions based on Colorado’s Front Range. Modify the information based on the region, site conditions, and project goals as needed.*

The following area was planted in native or water wise grass, [insert type of grass] in [insert installation year]. The purpose of this project was to save water, maintenance costs, and use Colorado-friendly vegetation. [Add other project objectives, if needed.]

Description of area and location: [insert description]

Description of desired look: [insert description]

To achieve the project objectives the maintenance guidelines should be followed.

**Mowing Schedule [Choose one row and delete the rest]**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Mowing Schedule** | **Notes** |  |
| Minimal mowing | * Mow once between February 1 and March 31 (dormant grass only) at a 2-inch height to remove dead grass blades. Will make the stand look healthier and greener in the summer.
 |
| Infrequent mowing | * Mow once between February 1 and March 31 (dormant grass only) at a 2-inch height to remove dead grass blades. Will make the stand look healthier and greener in the summer.
* Mow once around June 1 and again around August 1. Mow no shorter than four to six inches tall. Grass may produce seedheads in fall, which can be left standing through the winter.
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| Regular mowing | * Mow once between February 1 and March 31 (dormant grass only) at a 2-inch height to remove dead grass blades. Will make the stand look healthier and greener in the summer.
* From May 1 to September 30, mow once every 30 days. Mow no shorter than four to six inches tall. Grass should not have seedheads but can be left a little taller, up to eight inches tall, going into winter to prevent soil erosion.
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**Watering Schedule**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Time of Year** | **Watering Frequency** | **Watering Depth** |
| Active Growing Season*May 15 through October 15* | [Choose one]* Once per week
* Once every two weeks
* Water only during dry periods longer than two weeks.

It is [choose acceptable or not acceptable] for the grass to turn brown during extended hot, dry periods.  | Water 0.5 to 0.75 inches per watering day. Determine how long to run the irrigation system based on the precipitation rate.  |
| Dormant Season*October 16 through May 14* | No watering; do not winter water | Not applicable |

**Weed Control Schedule [Choose relevant rows and delete the rest.]**

* Use an integrated weed management strategy. Ensure the maintenance practices support healthy growth of the desired species.
* If no overseeding is required, apply pre-emergent herbicide in areas where many annual weeds were present the previous year. Use only herbicides labelled as safe for [insert type of grass].
* Areas with annual weeds greater than [20%] cover should be sprayed with an appropriate herbicide labeled as safe for [insert type of grass].
* If perennial broadleaf or grassy weeds persist in the area, consult with a weed management expert to determine the best treatment and course of action.

**Fertilization Schedule [modify as needed]**

Fertilize the area with a slow-release nitrogen fertilizer once per year between June 1-30.

**Core Aeration [Choose One]**

[Buffalograss-only or Bermudagrass areas.] Core aerate once per year from April 1 to May 31. Do not power rake or dethatch buffalograss. Bermudagrass can be dethatched if it gets too “puffy,” or the thatch layer is greater than 0.5 inches.

[All other grasses or grass mixes.] Do not core aerate, power rake, or dethatch.

**Addressing Issues with Corrective Action**

If the grass area shows signs of disease, decline, severe weed invasion, or poor health, consult with a Colorado State University Extension professional, native grass expert, or NRCS Range Management professional to identify a course of corrective action.

**Drought Management**

During periods of extended drought when water conservation is a priority and watering restrictions are enacted, this area should not be watered, fertilized, sprayed with herbicide, or aerated. Resume normal watering and maintenance practices when watering restrictions are lifted.