



# Lawns to Legumes Individual Support

## Spring 2024 Eligible Expenses Guide

(Refer to your participant agreements for additional grant commitments)

### Eligible project expenses for reimbursement include:

#### 1. NATIVE PLANTS + SEEDS

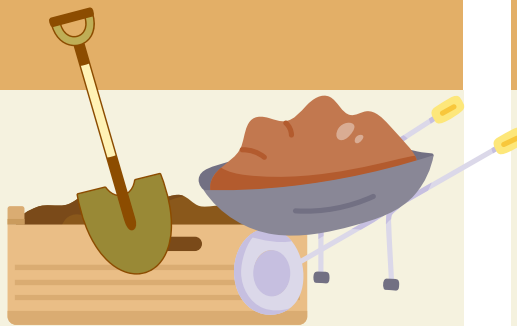
To make the biggest impact for pollinators, native plants and seeds should be the primary focus of your project. Non-native plants, hybrids, and cultivars are not reimbursable (see page 2 for exceptions).



- Minnesota native plants and seeds including:
  - flowers/forbs
  - bare root plants
  - grasses and sedges
  - trees and shrubs
  - seeds
- All-Season Blooms: Projects should have at least three blooming plant species during, spring, summer and fall, with higher diversity strongly encouraged
- Source native plants and seeds from within 175 miles of project location to the extent possible

#### 2. PROJECT EXPENSES

Depending on the needs of your project, these materials can help your planting be successful. Remember to keep native plants the focus of your project.\*



- Mulch (non-dyed preferred)
- Compost
- Edging (non-plastic preferred)
- Fencing or other herbivore protection material (chicken wire and stakes, mesh baskets, etc. This does not include repellents.)
- Stake for your L2L yard sign
- Equipment rental fees
- Delivery fees
- Blue Thumb/Metro Blooms workshops
- For raised bed and container gardens: soil\*\*, containers, planters, and raised bed materials up to \$100)

#### 3. IF NEEDED

If you are a beginning gardener or dealing with a special project site, these purchases may be helpful to you only if needed.



- Gardening equipment purchases under \$50 (trowels, gloves, etc.)
  - Sheet mulching materials including cardboard or other wood fiber-based products
  - Biodegradable weed suppression material including paper-based landscaping fabric (plastic-based products are not reimbursable)
  - Contractor installation and/or maintenance of projects
- All contracted work must be through the current grant period to be eligible.**

\*BlueThumb/MN BWSR has the right to refuse reimbursement if it is clear that project funds were not used for the primary purpose of creating native pollinator habitat.

\*\*Soil is not an eligible expense for projects that don't involve containers, as native plants can be selected for a wide range of soils in Minnesota. Dry prairie plants are well adapted to sandy, nutrient poor soils.

# Eligible native plant material for reimbursement include:

Only Minnesota native plants or seeds that are insecticide/neonicotinoid free are allowed, apart from a few exceptions (see below). Non-native cultivars, “nativars,” hybrids and annuals are not eligible for reimbursement. For more guidance, [this handout](#) provides tips for identifying whether a plant is native or a cultivar.

## Native plants vs cultivars/hybrids

### Identifying cultivars

- Cultivars usually have single quotes around their name
- Hybrids have an “X” in their name
- Check the plant tag! Look for whimsical names
- Shop at a native plant nursery instead of a chain store

### Examples of cultivars/hybrids

- Gaillardia 'Spintop Orange Halo'
- Spintop Orange Halo Blanket Flower
- Gaillardia X grandiflora



#### Native

Butterfly Weed  
(*Asclepias tuberosa*)



#### Cultivar

'Cinderella'  
Butterfly Flower  
cultivar of Swamp Milkweed  
(*Asclepias incarnata*)

## Non-native/cultivar exceptions:

Lawns to Legumes provides reimbursement for several non-native and cultivar plants due to their functionality in pollinator lawns, adaptability to Minnesota's climate, or benefit to pollinators. If you are not sure whether a plant is eligible for reimbursement, please email the [L2L Helpline](mailto:l2lhelp@bluethumb.org) (l2lhelp@bluethumb.org)

Common Name	Scientific Name	Reason for Exception
Fescue grasses	Festuca spp.	Pollinator lawn species
Self-heal	Prunella vulgaris	Pollinator lawn species
Creeping thyme	Thymus serpyllum	Pollinator lawn species
White clover	Trifolium repens	Pollinator lawn species
Serviceberry tree	Amelanchier spp.	Beneficial for pollinators
Hawthorn tree	Crataegus	Beneficial for pollinators
Black chokeberry	Aronia melanocarpa	Beneficial for pollinators

## TIME REQUIREMENT

Grantees are expected to spend **at least 2 hours of time** on their projects. This includes time spent watching the L2L Kick-Off Webinar and planning. You will need to share the total number of hours you spent on your project when filling out the Reimbursement Request Form.

## REPORTING ADDITIONAL SPENDING

Track the total expenses spent on your project, including any expenses beyond the amount you request reimbursement for. (This will help us demonstrate the many outcomes of the Lawns to Legumes program!) You will need to share this information when filling out the [Reimbursement Request Form](#).

## REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST

- Attend or watch the recording of the [Lawns to Legumes kick-off webinar](#) in order to better ensure success of your project.
- Once you complete your project, [submit a reimbursement request](#) by the project deadline. See Blue Thumb's [Grantee Guide](#) for your deadline and steps to get started on your project.
- Prepare your materials: To submit a reimbursement request, you'll need before and after photos of your project area, itemized receipts, project size information, and documentation of the time and money spent on your project. Review what you'll need on the [Grantee Guide](#).
- Please be patient as we go through reimbursement requests. Our team individually reviews each request.

## WHERE CAN YOU PURCHASE NATIVE PLANTS?

The first place to look is our [Native Nurseries & Retailers list](#).

The [Minnesota DNR](#) has a list of native plant vendors (it is important to check with any vendor to ensure that their plants are neonicotinoid free). [The Wild Ones Chapters of Minnesota](#) also have a list of native plant vendors.

## WHEN CAN I START MAKING PURCHASES?

You can start making purchases for your Lawns to Legumes project anytime after filling out the [Grant Confirmation Form](#). Lawns to Legumes can only reimburse eligible purchases made after the date of grant confirmation and before the project deadline.

