



Lawns to Legumes Printable Eligible Expenses Guide

Updated for Fall 2024

You can view a webpage version of the Eligible Expenses guide at bluethumb.org/lawns-to-legumes/eligible-expenses-guide/.

Native Plants and Seeds

To make the biggest impact for pollinators, Minnesota native plants and seeds should be the primary focus of the project. **To be reimbursed, the project must involve the addition of new native plants within the grant period.** Non-native plants, hybrids, and cultivars are not reimbursable.

Eligible Minnesota native plants and seeds include:

- flowers/forbs
- bare root plants
- grasses, sedges, and ferns
- trees and shrubs
- seeds

All-Season Blooms: Try to incorporate at least three plant species that bloom during spring, summer and fall, with higher diversity strongly encouraged.

Source Local: When possible, buy native plants and seeds from within 175 miles of project location.

Avoid purchasing plants treated with neonicotinoids/systemic pesticides. Before purchasing plants, grantees should check with their vendor to ensure that their plants are neonicotinoid-free.

Other Project Expenses

Depending on the needs of the project, the following eligible materials can help a grantee's planting be successful. Remember to keep native plants the focus of the 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 L2L yard sign (sign is mailed after project is complete)
- 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)

If Needed

If a grantee is a beginning gardener or dealing with a special project site, these eligible purchases may be helpful only if needed.

- Gardening equipment purchases that total up to, but no more than \$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)
- Hiring consultation, design, or installation help. All contracted work must be through the current grant period to be eligible for reimbursement.

** 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.*

Cultivars and Non-Native Plants

Non-native cultivars, "nativars," hybrids and annuals are not eligible for reimbursement, except for the exceptions listed below.

Cultivar and Non-Native 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	All <i>Festuca</i> species	Pollinator lawn species
Self-heal	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Pollinator lawn species
Creeping thyme	<i>Thymus serpyllum</i>	Pollinator lawn species
White clover (Dutch White Clover, microclover)	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	Pollinator lawn species
Serviceberry tree	All <i>Amelanchier</i> species	Beneficial for pollinators
Hawthorn tree	All <i>Crataegus</i> species	Beneficial for pollinators
Black chokeberry	<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>	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. They will need to share the total number of hours spent on their project when filling out the [Reimbursement Request Form](#).

Reporting Additional Spending

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

When grantees start making purchases?

Grantees can start making purchases for their 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.

Once a grantee completes their project, they must [submit a reimbursement request](#) by the project deadline. To submit a reimbursement request, they need before and after photos of the project area, itemized receipts, project size information, and documentation of the time and money spent on their project.