

Seed Suppliers

The **Montana Native Plant Society** has organized a list of Montana businesses by city that sell Montana native plants: *Native Plant Source Guide* MNPS Landscaping & Revegetation Committee Updated July 2025. This can be found on their website at: mtnativeplants.org/landscaping/source-guide/

The **Lewis and Clark County Noxious Weed Control District** has organized a list of Montana businesses that sell Montana native plants. This can be found at: [www.lccountymt.gov/ Government/Public-Works/Noxious-Weed-Control-District](http://www.lccountymt.gov/Government/Public-Works/Noxious-Weed-Control-District)

Additional Resources and Information

- + For a more in-depth guideline to revegetation, refer to *Revegetation Guidelines: Considering Invasive and Noxious Weeds* published by MSU extension.
- + The Lewis and Clark County Noxious Weed Control District offers property inspections and weed management plan development for your property.
- + The Lewis and Clark County Noxious Weed Control District has a drop seeder available to reserve at \$100/day or \$150/weekend.

Noxious Weed District Office

3402 Cooney Drive, Helena, MT 59602

Monday - Thursday 8:00 am -5:00 pm

Contact Information

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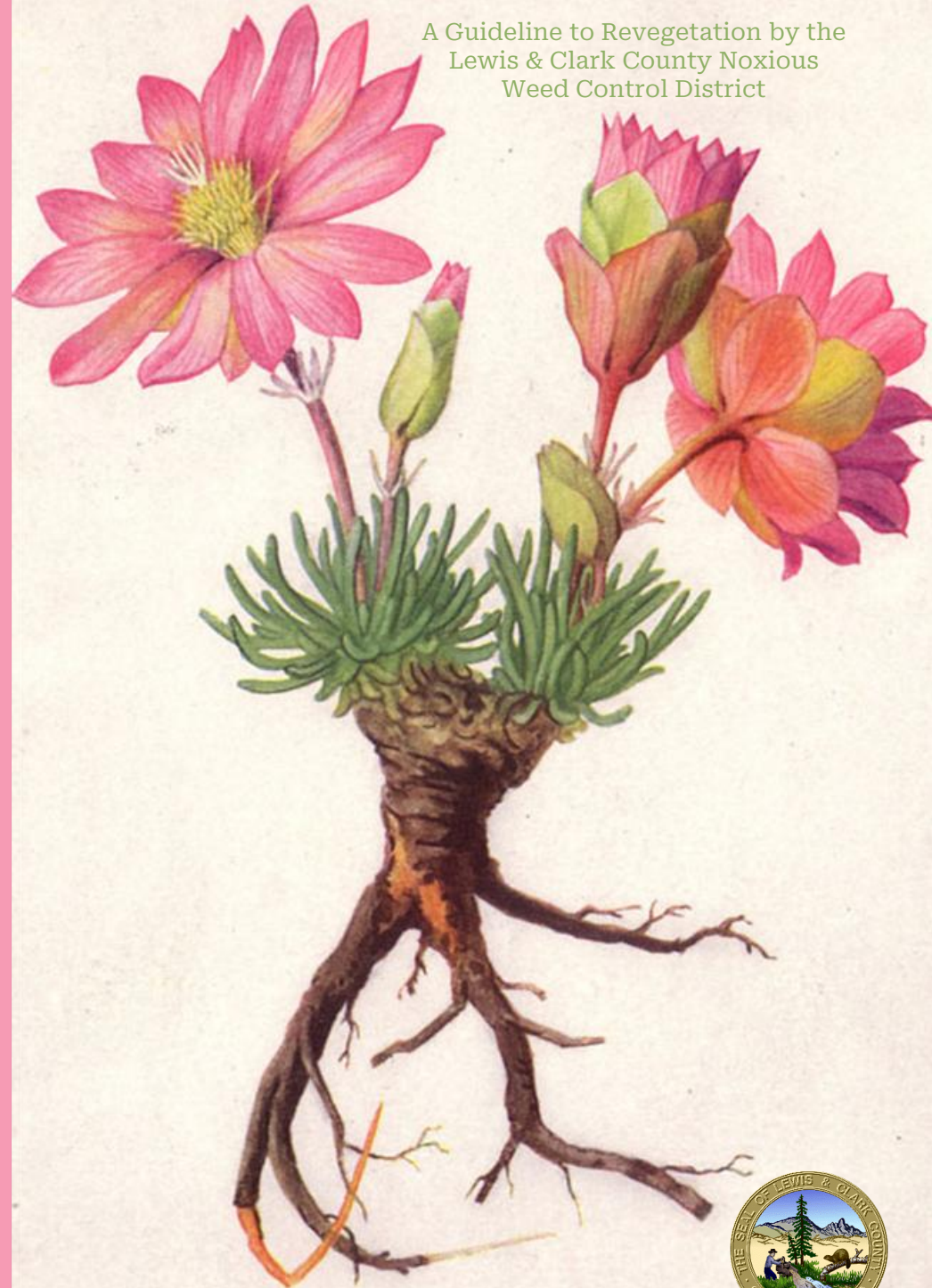
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Rooted in Restoration

A Guideline to Revegetation by the
Lewis & Clark County Noxious
Weed Control District



Artist: Mary E. Eaton



Why should you revegetate?

The Lewis and Clark County Noxious Weed Control District is dedicated to managing invasive plant species while protecting and restoring Montana's native ecosystems. An essential component of successful conservation is revegetation.

Introducing desirable vegetation, particularly in areas that have experienced disturbance, helps prevent secondary invasions by both new and established noxious weeds. When planning revegetation efforts, choose native plant species that offer a diversity of bloom periods, root structures, and growth forms, including forbs, grasses, shrubs, and trees. This variety helps the landscape stay healthy and gives it a better chance to grow back strong over time.

Site Assessment

When it comes to revegetation, there are several factors to consider. You may be attempting to restore a hundred acres of rangeland, a mile of land along a stream, a front lawn, or a small pollinator garden. The types of plants you utilize could vary between each of these systems. Some factors to consider are:

- Climate – amount of precipitation, average temperature
- Soil – type of soil, soil depth, soil chemistry (salinity, pH, nutrient availability)
- Proximity to water – possibility of flooding, need for erosion control
- Landscape position – elevation, slope (steepness of a terrain), aspect (the compass direction that a slope faces, this determines amount of sun exposure)
- Noxious weed populations - plant competition through resource uptake

Site Preparation

Now that you have assessed your site, it is time to plan how and when you will revegetate. Some things to consider are:

Do you need to control any existing vegetation?

- If your site has vegetation that needs to be controlled prior to planting, you may need to use chemical, cultural, or mechanical controls. Herbicides can target specific weeds, cultural practices like grazing or mowing help manage biomass, and mechanical treatments open the seedbed.

How to select species and where to purchase a seed mix?

- When looking at potential species, start by identifying those that require similar annual precipitation values to your site. Helena receives on average 11-12 inches of rain, but your site may experience less or more.
- There are several great local seed suppliers. See the back of this pamphlet for more information.

What time of year should you revegetate?

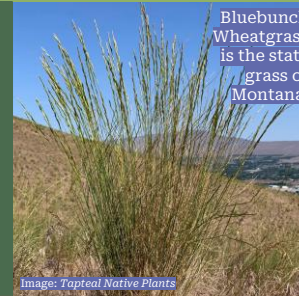
- **Fall-dormant seeding** - occurs in the fall before the first soil freeze, but when it is still cold enough that seeds will not germinate. Seeds will overwinter and germinate in the spring when the soils warm again.
- **Early spring seeding** - occurs when the soil is moist and the temperature is still cool.

What time of year should you revegetate?

- **Fall-dormant seeding** – occurs in the fall before the first soil freeze, but when it is still cold enough that seeds will not germinate. Seeds will overwinter and germinate in the spring when soils warm again. For best results, perform this when soil temperatures are consistently below 40 degrees F, typically after October 15th.
- **Early spring seeding** – occurs when the soil is moist and the temperature is still cool. For best results, perform this prior to May 15th for non-irrigated sites, and prior to June 15th for irrigated sites.

Some Native Montana Plant Species...

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Bluebunch Wheatgrass is the state grass of Montana!

Image: Topical Native Plants



Idaho Fescue is a good year-round forage for elk.

Image: Native Utah Plants



Mountain Brome is a highly palatable early-spring forage for livestock and wildlife.

Image: Stevenson Intermountain Seed, Inc.

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Kinnikinnick has many medicinal benefits.

Image: King Conservation District



Prairie Smoke grows like a dense mat that helps prevent erosion and weeds.

Image: University of Wisconsin-Madison Horticulture



Creeping Juniper is tolerant of poor soils and droughts.

Image: Wild Cherry Farm

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Silver Buffalo Berry berries are a nutrient-dense "superfruit"!

Image: Matt Lovin



Black Elderberry is a host plant for many species of moths, butterflies, and birds.

Image: Cold Stream Farm



Mountain Big Sagebrush offers vital winter forage for wildlife.

Image: Great Basin Seed

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Twinberry Honeysuckle offers erosion control along streams

Image: Gardenia Creating Gardens



Rocky Mountain Iris attracts many species of pollinators.

Image: Gardenia Creating Gardens



Swamp Milkweed is a host plant for monarch butterflies!

Image: Hamilton Native Outpost

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Wood Lilies are culturally significant and have many medicinal benefits.

Image: Gardenia Creating Gardens



Prairie Sunflowers can remediate contaminated soils by removing toxins.

Image: Katy Chayka



American Vetch fixes nitrogen, improving soil fertility.

Image: Everwide Farms