

Native Grass Uplands

Why Native Uplands?



Native species are the clear choice for environmental stewardship. Naturally adapted to the climatic and environmental conditions they grow in, this makes them a truly sustainable choice.

Native grasses provide long-lived, low maintenance and aesthetically pleasing ground cover. Each stand of native species is customized so there is always vegetative cover on the land as growing conditions change seasonally. Certain native species are better suited to the cool, moist periods of spring and fall while others tolerate the drier, hotter summer period. When domesticated grass species (turf and sod) are dormant during hot summers, native upland plants are still green.

Native grasses are deep rooted, making them drought tolerant and improving water infiltration into the soil. Certain native species also perform better than non-native species in areas of seasonal flooding because they can withstand periods of inundation.

Once established, native uplands are low maintenance. They require, on average, rejuvenation once every five years through various management techniques. This means lower maintenance costs over the long-term. A stand of native grasses also creates texture and colour in the landscape that changes and morphs with each passing season.



Why Native Plant Solutions?

Native Plant Solutions (NPS) is the most experienced company in Canada with respect to native grasslands and creating sustainable landscapes. We have planted thousands of acres of native grasslands across Canada in both urban and rural sites.

We apply a natural systems approach. To ensure successful establishment of native uplands, an understanding of biological systems and their processes is key.

A healthy landscape has many micro-environments that support different combinations of native plant species. Based on our years of experience, we provide planting strategies and designs that reflect environmental variability. Our plans entail both art and science, and a detailed step-wise plan from pre-seeding to post-establishment is crucial for the successful establishment of native uplands.

Our Expertise

- ✔ NPS staff are specialists in the upland, wetland, aquatic and environmental sciences.
- ✔ We employ cost-effective techniques that customize the appropriate habitat for your site's environmental conditions.
- ✔ Our techniques provide high quality results that can withstand a variety of environmental conditions and provide immediate ecological benefits.

We offer...

- ✔ Site assessment
- ✔ Plant selection and procurement
- ✔ On-site supervision
- ✔ Post-planting management
- ✔ Supporting research
- ✔ Design
- ✔ Site preparation
- ✔ Seeding and weed suppression strategies
- ✔ Ongoing consultation





Kelburn Farm

Project proponent: James Richardson International Limited
Location: Rural Municipality of Richot, Manitoba

Project description: Repatriation of cropland to a natural riparian flood zone. In one of every four years, about one hectare of land could not be farmed due to flooding. The proponent determined that best management practices dictated that the land should be returned to its native state.

NPS re-vegetated the cropland with appropriate native species in conjunction with building a small wetland. In 2012 under the supervision of NPS, the site underwent its first controlled burn to rejuvenate the native species.



Smith Carter Headquarters

Project proponent: Smith Carter
Location: Winnipeg, Manitoba

Project description: 0.52 hectares of grounds were planted with tall grass prairie species to reduce maintenance costs, enhance sustainability, create an aesthetically enhanced space for staff and clients and highlight Smith Carter's LEED Platinum certified headquarters.

NPS was responsible for native grass seeding, weed control and a native grass management plan. As part of the management plan, NPS grassland specialists carried out a controlled burn in 2011.



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Native Plant Solutions is a consulting branch of Ducks Unlimited Canada and draws on over 70 years of wetland and native grassland knowledge, research and restoration experience. We use sound science to restore and create sustainable landscapes.