



**NATIONAL
WILDLIFE
FEDERATION**

Native Turf and Groundcover Recommendations Communities near Ft. Myers-Naples, FL

This area is located in the Southern Coastal Plain of the Eastern Temperate Forests Ecoregion.

Good individual species that are native substitutes for Bermudagrass include:

- Aristida stricta* (wiregrass)
- Aristida spiciformis* (bottlebrush threeawn)
- Sporobolus junceus* (pinewoods dropseed)
- Eragrostis elliottii* (Elliot's lovegrass)
- Eragrostis spectabilis* (purple lovegrass)
- Eragrostis refracta* (coastal lovegrass)
- Oplismenus hirtellus subsp. setarius* (bristle basketgrass)

Blooming low native groundcover alternatives:

- Dyschoriste oblongifolia* (twinflor)
- Mimosa strigillosa* (sunshine mimosa)
- Phyla nodiflora* (frogfruit/fogfruit)
- Salvia lyrata* (lyreleaf sage)

Seed mixes that contain some combinations of the above species include:

Prescribed lawn-alternative seed mixes do not seem to be available in Florida. We suggest contacting one of these seed suppliers to obtain individual seed species or create a customized mix comprised of some of the individual species listed above.

[Southern Habitats Native Wildlife Solutions](#)

[The Natives](#)

[Florida Wildflowers Growers Cooperative](#)

Other (non-native) turfgrass alternatives:

(*Stenotaphrum secundatum* (St. Augustine grass) is by some accounts native to the southeastern US, and by others considered adventive. At the very least, it should be considered more favorable to use than the invasive *Cynodon dactylon* (Bermudagrass).)

Paspalum notatum (Bahia grass) was introduced from Brazil as a turfgrass that is widely used and highly adaptable. Now considered invasive in Georgia and South Carolina, it may still be a better alternative to Bermudagrass and could be considered suitable for residential lawns that are not adjacent to natural areas.

Zoysia sp. (Zoysiagrass) is an Asian introduction with many varieties. It may also be a better alternative to Bermudagrass.