



## Native Turf and Groundcover Recommendations Communities near Indianapolis, IN

This area is located in the Piedmont within the Eastern Temperate Forests Ecoregion.

Good individual species that are native substitutes for Bermudagrass include:

- Deschampsia caespitosa* (tufted hair grass)
- Eragrostis spectabilis* (purple lovegrass)
- Juncus tenuis* (path/poverty rush)
- Sporobolus heterolepis* (prairie dropseed)
- Carex albicans* (white-tinge sedge)
- Carex bromoides* (brome sedge)
- Carex pensylvanica* (Pennsylvania sedge)
- Carex woodii* (pretty sedge)

Blooming low native groundcover alternatives:

- Salvia lyrata* (lyreleaf sage)
- Sisyrinchium angustifolium* (blue-eyed grass)
- Viola soraria* (common blue violet)

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

Prescribed lawn-alternative seed mixes do not seem to be available in Indianapolis. 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.

Allendan Seed Company

<https://www.allendanseed.com/seed/shop-mixes>

Ernst Conservation Seeds

<https://www.ernstseed.com/>

Pinelands Nursery & Supply

<https://www.pinelandsnursery.com/seed>

Other (non-native) turfgrass alternatives:

*Zoysia sp.* (Zoysiagrass) – southern IN

*Festuca rubra* (red fescue)

*Trifolium repens* (white clover)

*Poa pratensis* (Kentucky blue grass)

*Lolium perenne* (perennial rye grass)

*Thymus sp.* (creeping thyme)

Ohio Prairie Nursery Bee Lawn Mix

<https://www.opnseed.com/products/bee-lawn-mix>

Ohio Prairie Nursery Clover Lawn Mix

<https://www.opnseed.com/products/clover-lawn-mix>

American Meadows No Mow Lawn Grass Seed

<https://www.americanmeadows.com/product/grass-and-groundcover-seeds/no-mow-lawn-grass-seed>

Ernst Seeds 5311 Conservation Mix

<https://www.ernstseed.com/product/5311-conservation-mix/>

[Pure Air Native's Turf Alternative - Sun](https://pureairnatives.com/shop/light-requirements/full-sun/turf-alternative-sun/)

<https://pureairnatives.com/shop/light-requirements/full-sun/turf-alternative-sun/>

[CritSite's Low Mow - Native Seed Mix](https://www.critsite.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=products.detail&recID=168)

<https://www.critsite.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=products.detail&recID=168>