



BORDERLANDS NURSERY & SEED

PO Box 121

Patagonia, AZ 85624

E: horticulture@borderlandsrestoration.org

www.borderlandsrestoration.org



Applying Native Seed in Arid Southwest Ecosystems

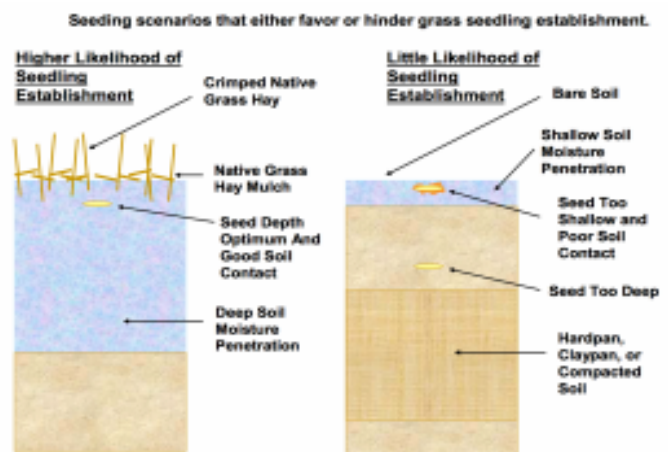
Using native seed for groundcover, restoration, or rehabilitation in the arid southwest can be a challenging endeavor, but if the right seed is applied in the right place at the right time you can still get great results.

Follow these guidelines when applying native seed:

- While the seeding rate per species varies, seed mixes can be applied at rates between 10 lb-20 lb/acre. We recommend 20 lb/acre for best results.

To calculate your acreage: determine square footage of space by multiplying the length (ft) x width (ft) of the area you'd like to seed. Divide 43,560 (the # of square feet in an acre) by this number. This will give you the number of acres you are trying to seed.

- Most native seed calls to be planted at a $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ " depth. You can achieve this by bulking up your seed with sandy soil *before* application (this also helps to ensure the seed is not all dropped in one location!). The seed can then be further incorporated into the topsoil after application using a rake or a dragged piece of fencing.
- Break-up compacted soils prior to applying native seed. If the soil is heavy clay or fine-textured, consider amending topsoil with a sandy material for better establishment success.
- Consider seed dormancy when applying seed. Many species may need to experience a cold period before germination, in which case full results of the seeding will not be visible for at least 2 years.
- Seed may be applied year-round, but growth will happen mostly during the summer for warm-season grasses, and fall-spring for cool-season grasses.
- Apply an appropriate amount of mulch (consider seeding depth) to control weeds and help trap moisture. Native grass hay is the best mulch for large areas that are to be seeded.



(Image source: NRCS New Mexico)