New Landscaping Opportunity—What is Buffalo Grass?

The City of Gering is now offering assistance to homeowners interested in converting their Kentucky Blue Grass lawns into a more drought tolerant turf known as buffalo grass.

Buffalo grass is native to the plains of Western Nebraska and has high tolerance to drought and poor soil conditions. Two criteria to evaluate when considering buffalo grass conversion would be total hours of sunlight and the amount of traffic the area will receive. Generally buffalo grass needs an average of 8 hours of sunlight per day and does not tolerate heavy traffic. Buffalo grass is a warm season grass that will not "green up" until late May and goes dormant around October. Buffalo grass thrives in the most extreme heat when the more common blue grass lawns begin to suffer and have that yellow appearance brought on by over-watering. Examples of this turf option can be seen around Gering as our Parks Department has been using it in some newly seeded areas that receive low traffic.

As part of this program, residents may receive up to 10 pounds of seed and a pamphlet on how to begin the conversion process. The Natural Resources District is sponsoring a similar program and will partner with the City of Gering to provide a Buffalo Grass Conversion Clinic this spring. If you have questions or are interested in participating, stop by City Hall and pick up a rebate form. The next step would be to call the Parks Department and make arrangements for your site to be surveyed and approved by either the Parks Director and/or a Park Board member.

Watering restrictions have occurred in many towns in recent years as a result of the on-going drought. Conversion to buffalo grass is a way for homeowners to have an attractive green yard without wasting precious resources.

City of Gering
Buffalo Grass Conversion Rebate

The City of Gering is sponsoring a rebate program for the conversion of Kentucky Blue Grass to the more drought tolerant buffalo grass turf option. In order to receive a rebate the following guidelines must be met:

1. A member of the Gering Park, Cemetery, and Tree Board must approve the proposed conversion site **before** the conversion takes place. Two criteria to evaluate when considering buffalo grass conversion would be total hours of sunlight and the amount of traffic the area will receive. Generally, buffalo grass needs an average of 8 hours of sunlight per day and does not tolerate heavy traffic.

2. Upon approval, the city will supply the homeowner with the total amount of seed required to convert the specified area (10 pounds maximum). In addition to seed, the homeowner will receive a pamphlet on how to plant and care for buffalo grass. Additional information on the use of buffalo grass can be accessed through the University of Nebraska web site.

Name of Homeowner:_____
Address of proposed site: _____
Phone:_____
Date: _____

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Draw location of the proposed conversion site in relation to your house, street and other permanent objects.