

Welcome to the DFWT Grassland Set-Aside (GLSA) variety trial plots. The purpose of these plots is to show how various Grassland Set-Aside seed mixes grow under local conditions. Plots were seeded on May 20th, 2026, using a drill seeder at approximately 1 inch depth.

Plots

1. Alfalfa mix



**AAC Trueman Alfalfa 65%, Tall Fescue 20%,
Orchardgrass 10%, Timothy 5%**

Alfalfa was chosen as a high-value forage legume, paired with a smaller proportion of tall fescue, orchardgrass, and timothy to provide sod structure and rapid early cover while the alfalfa is established.

Seeding Rate: 26 lbs/acre (\$96/acre)

Seed Source: Terralink

2. Blueberry Mix



**Tall Fescue 30%, Orchardgrass 15%, Slender Wheatgrass 22%,
Sunflower 15%, Annual Ryegrass 5%, Phacelia 3%, Red Clover
5%, Aerial Radish 5%, Sweet Alyssum 500g**

Designed for the more acidic soils typical of blueberry fields, tall fescue and red fescue have a high tolerance of lower pH. Sunflower, phacelia, and sweet alyssum are added for pollinator value, and aerial radish is included to break up compacted soil.

Seeding Rate: 30 lbs/acre (\$164/acre + sunflower and sweet alyssum)

Seed Source: Terralink and West Coast Seeds

3. Pollinator Mix 2: Perennial Flowers



Alsike Clover 3.5%, Crimson Clover 10%, Double Cut Red Clover 7.5%, White Clover 3.5%, Orchardgrass 30%, Tall Fescue 37%, Timothy 8%

A four-clover blend (alsike, crimson, double cut red, and white) was selected to extend bloom time and pollinator forage across the season. Orchardgrass, tall fescue, and timothy are included for stand structure and longevity.

Seeding Rate: 24 lbs/acre (\$90/acre)
Seed Source: Terralink

4. Pollinator Mix 1: Annual Flowers



Tall Fescue 30%, Orchardgrass 15%, Slender Wheatgrass 22%, Sunflower 15%, Annual Ryegrass 10%, Phacelia 3%, Red Clover 5%

Sunflower and phacelia provide quick, showy pollinator forage, while annual ryegrass gives fast establishment and slender wheatgrass offers a short-lived perennial option suited to poorer sites, with tall fescue and orchardgrass increasing sod formation.

Seeding Rate: 40 lbs/acre (\$156/acre + sunflower)
Seed Source: Terralink

5. Soil Building Mix



Tall Fescue 26%, Creeping Red Fescue 9%, Orchardgrass 14%, Timothy 7%, Perennial Ryegrass 19%, Alsike clover 5%, Double cut red clover 5%, Sunflowers 15%

This mix combines rhizomatous creeping red fescue for sod and canopy cover, sunflower for deep rooting and organic matter, and two clovers (alsike and red) for nitrogen fixation, with tall fescue, orchardgrass, timothy, and perennial ryegrass providing fast-establishing, resilient grass cover.

Seeding Rate: 33 lbs/acre (\$105/acre + sunflowers)

Seed Source: Terralink

6. Delta Set-aside mix



Tall Fescue 38%, Orchardgrass 10%, Timothy 15%, Chewing's Fescue 15%, Creeping Red Fescue 20%, Double Cut Red Clover 2% + Nurse crop: Oats and Barley 10lbs/acre

Tall fescue has remediation properties, wildlife value, and tolerance of poor soil conditions, while timothy suits Delta's variable wet-to-dry soils and offers habitat value to waterfowl and voles. Chewing's and creeping red fescue support small mammal habitat and biomass production, with red clover kept low as the legume component to not smother the shorter fescues, while providing some pollinator forage.

Seeding Rate: 38 lbs/acre (\$96/acre + nurse crop)

Seed Source: Terralink

7. Farmer's 2026 Mix



Balansa Clover 10%, Phacelia 5%, Berseem Clover 20%, Hairy Vetch 15%, Buckwheat 10%, Sunflower 20%, Tillage Radish 20% and a grass blend seeded after, including: Timothy 30%, Creeping Fescue 30%, Amba Orchard Grass 20%, Festolium 15%, Kentucky Blue Grass 5%

A diverse annual legume, brassica, and broadleaf blend (balansa and berseem clover, hairy vetch, buckwheat, sunflower, tillage radish, phacelia) was selected for rapid biomass production, soil building, and pollinator habitat, seeded alongside a perennial grass blend (timothy, creeping fescue, orchardgrass, festolium, Kentucky bluegrass) to establish longer-term cover.

Seeding Rate: Annual Mix: 15 lbs/ac Grass Mix: 20 lbs/ac
Seed Source: Tecarte Farms and Pacific Forage Bag

Sweet Alyssum Strip: A narrow strip of alyssum broadcast by hand across all plots.

A consistent flowering strip added to all plots to provide additional pollinator habitat.

Seeding Rate: 1.1 lbs/acre

Seed Source: West Coast Seeds

Thanks to Wyatt Bates for hosting the trial. Thanks to Terralink for assisting with seed selection.

Delta Farmland & Wildlife Trust

Grassland Set-Asides Seed Variety Demonstration Trial

Delta, Aug 27, 2026

Research

Weed Pressure Over the Season

Percent weed cover averaged from three samples per plot, ranked from lowest to highest late-season weed cover.

Green = low weeds, orange = moderate, red = high

Plot	June 15	June 30	July 14	July 27	August 17
Farmer's mix	0	6	8	1	3
Blueberry mix	1	8	1	4	6
Pollinator mix 1	2	11	15	16	9
DFWT mix (with nurse crop)	3	6	20	37	15
Pollinator mix 2	2	9	24	34	31
Alfalfa mix	1	9	24	64	38
Soil building mix	2	17	12	35	45
DFWT mix (without nurse crop)	1	4	22	21	72

Growth Over the Season

Average vegetation height from three samples per plot in centimeters.

Plot	Height: June 15	Height: August 17	Growth
Alfalfa mix	15	62	+46cm
Blueberry mix	8	82	+74cm
DFWT mix (with barley)	26	91	+66cm
DFWT mix (without barley)	9	69	+59cm
Pollinator mix 1	16	101	+84cm
Pollinator mix 2	13	62	+49cm
Soil building mix	9	92	+83cm
Farmer's mix	10	98	+88cm