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## *The Consultation Process*

Maybe you have been thinking about getting a new tree planted in your yard. Or, perhaps you are wondering if your lawn would benefit from being over seeded. These are just a few of the questions the experts at Seeds of Life can help you answer.

To start the process of meeting with one of our staff members, all you have to do is

call the office or email us through our website.

At that time we will set up a time to meet with you at your home or business. We have flexible hours and are able to meet with you on evenings and weekends if necessary.

After we meet to talk with you about your ideas, goals, questions, or problems we will come up with a plan of

action. This will help you have an idea of the steps you need to take to meet your landscape goals.

To learn more about our design fees, call or email us at **(402) 489-8315** or [www.seedsoflifenursery.com](http://www.seedsoflifenursery.com).



**Above:** This photograph shows a wildflower meadow in full bloom. This bright yellow flower is a native variety of coreopsis, a common landscape perennial in the Midwest. It blooms from late spring into summer.

**Left:** Here you see a residential property that has had some of the lawn area seeded to little bluestem. The spruce trees planted in this prairie native make a nice contrast. Look at page 2 to see this same patch of prairie in fall.



# Creating a Prairie: Tools You Need

So you want to grow a prairie. To do this you must have a plan of action and lots of patience.

**First:** Site selection. You must choose a site that has the conditions prairie grass needs to survive. Full sun, decent soil, and good drainage are best for establishing a prairie.

**Second:** Seed selection. There are more types of seed out there than people realize. Tall prairie, short prairie, wildflowers, pasture, water-loving, shade-loving, and animal habitat seed mixes, just to name a few.

**Third:** Site preparation. For a successful prairie seeding you need

to kill out any competition. Weeds, existing grasses, etc. all must be killed to allow for the prairie to get established. Leaving dead stubble is good to form a foundation for the seed to grow. It can help prevent erosion from wind and water.

**Fourth:** Planting. Timing is everything. The best time to seed prairie grasses and wildflowers is in the spring and fall. Dormant seeding is also possible. This is when you seed during the winter. The seed will then germinate in the spring when conditions become favorable for growth.

**Fifth:** Maintenance. Watering during establishment is not necessary for all seed types but will help with the germination process. Mowing is vital. Mowing keeps weedy plants from going to seed and also prevents them from shading out the delicate, slow-growing prairie grasses and wildflowers.

**Sixth (almost done):** A plan. Getting help from Seeds of Life to plan your prairie will make sure you don't overlook any of the important steps listed here.

**Finally:** Patience. In 2 to 3 years your prairie will be established.

Call Blake for more info. ♦

## About Us: Meet the Staff

Josh Mammen first joined the Seeds of Life team in March of 2010 as an intern. After his internship he became a fulltime member of Seeds of Life as a Crew Leader and Landscape Installer. Josh graduate from Southeast Community College with a degree in Horticulture. Originally from Plymouth, Nebraska he has two brothers and really enjoys spending his free time with friends fishing, camping and being outdoors.



Above is the same little bluestem prairie from page one. Note the beautiful rust color of the grass in the fall. Quite a unique feature for any residential or acreage property.



This planting of wildflowers looks very natural in this acreage setting. It takes a few years for a meadow like this to get established. To learn more about this process, read the article on page 2.

## *Stock Seed Farms: Our Source*

All great businesses have amazing suppliers providing them with quality products and support. One of our trusted suppliers is Stock Seed Farms. The Stock Family has been harvesting and selling seed for over 50 years near Murdock, NE. They are committed to providing quality seed, educating their customers, and creating awareness of the importance of native and bred seed. Stock Seed Farms sells a variety of turf grass, wildflower, and prairie grass seeds. They also carry many seed mixes used to create wildlife habitat. If you are interested in harvesting honey, Stock Seed

Farms has a pollinator mix created just for bees. They can create custom mixes to fit the needs of each of our clients. It has been great to work with and learn from the staff at Stock Seed Farms over the years.

Learn more about Stock Seed Farms at [www.stockseed.com](http://www.stockseed.com). ♦

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**How do you like our newsletter?**

We would love to hear back from you. Let us know if there are topics you would like us to discuss or if you have suggestions to make our publication better.

*Thank you for your support.*



The illustration above is one example of a drainage problem people commonly face and how it can be solved. To learn more about this and many more solutions, call Seeds of Life.

## *Solving Your Water Issues One Downspout at a Time*

After the rainy spring we had last year, many people experienced water in their basement and other water related issues. To stop those problems before they start we can help you come up with a drainage solution that fits your needs and budget.

The most common issue is illustrated in the pictures above. It



shows a downspout pouring out into a pool next to the foundation. That is one of the main reasons people end up with water in their basements. By attaching a 4 inch tube to the bottom of the downspout, we can direct the water away from the foundation and out into the yard. We are able to trench through existing sod or landscaping to allow the water to exit at your property line or near a sewer drain. If you need the water moved a few feet from your home we can install a drain box similar to the one with the green lid show in the top right picture above. It is usually a 9 inch by 9 inch box. If we get a heavy rain then the water

will flow out of the top of the box into the lawn. All of your downspouts can be linked together to eliminate any issues caused by water coming off of your roof.

We have also worked with neighbors who were having water issues. They agreed to have their downspouts linked together and to route the water beyond their properties. It saves them cost by having both water issues solved at once and it prevents water damage in the future.

Call today for a free drainage consultation before the spring showers begin. ♦



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