



Iowa Native Prairie Planting Guide



ORGANIC TRANSITION OPTIONS

Options for Increasing forb diversity in native grass-dominated stands

Steps

1. Plow introduced plant community, August-October.
2. Use Disk/Soil finisher twice in early spring.
 - Complete necessary tillage to create a good seedbed. It should be relatively smooth to drive over.
3. Seed 3 bushels of oats/acre.
4. Evaluate the seeding area in September.
 - Check if the introduced plant community is coming back or if thistles and other potential problem weeds are present.
5. Complete tillage before seeding.
6. Roll area to make a firm seedbed; a footprint should not be < than 1/8" deep.
7. Complete a dormant seeding.
8. If a spring seeding is completed, add a bushel of oats to the seed mix for soil erosion control.
9. Mow
 - Mow 1st at 3-4" in height when annual weeds reach knee high.
 - Increase the mower height to 5-6" after the first mowing.
 - Additional mowings in the 2nd year will aide in the establishment of the seedlings.

Note: A spring seeding could be completed after the spring disking if seedbed conditions are good.



Using a chisel plow to begin to break up the soil to prepare for seeding oats.

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