

## Q&A

### **1. How do land managers balance between turf grass and native plant options?**

Turf grass and native plants can coexist, and even lawns of predominantly non-native turf grasses and plants provide ecosystem services like water filtration and erosion prevention. [Healthy Lawns Healthy Waters](#) is a collaborative program from [Texas A&M University](#), [AgriLife Extension](#), and [Texas Water Resources Institute](#) focused on educating the public about the relationship between lawn care and water quality in local watersheds.

[Buffalo Grass](#) is a native turf grass option that can work for unshaded lawns and in drought-prone regions.

Additionally, Texas A&M has a [turf grass breeding program](#) that focuses on breeding drought-resistant turf grass for those who are interested in having a lawn that uses less water and fertilizer.

Landowners with multiple acres shouldn't mow all their property as if it's lawn; mixed landscapes are an excellent option to have parts of the property as lawn for recreation while allowing native plants and ecosystems to grow in some areas.

### **2. What are the recommendations for managing Buffalo Grass?**

Drainage is a key consideration for healthy Buffalo Grass lawns. Buffalo Grass naturally thrives in areas that get less than 25 inches of rainfall, so Buffalo Grass in the North Texas area doesn't need to be watered and needs good drainage. It's also important not to plant Buffalo Grass in shade; it thrives in full sun.

Native [sedges](#) are a great option to fill in spaces in shady parts of a Buffalo Grass lawn.

### **3. I want to encourage firefly species bugs, if I use mosquito control either the pellets or the new spartan mosquito apparatus, will those chemicals harm the firefly population?**

Though studies of pesticides' impact on fireflies is limited, there is no definitive link between mosquito control measures and firefly decline.

To promote firefly population in your outdoor spaces, avoid over-managing the lawn. Leaf litter and brush are habitats for fireflies, so unmanaged areas create a habitat for fireflies to flourish.

Learn more about the link between pesticides and fireflies [here](#).

#### **4. Are there volunteer opportunities at John Bunker Sands (JBS)?**

The John Bunker Sands Wetland Center has ongoing volunteer and stewardship opportunities. Prospective volunteers should fill out a steward application and consent form available [here](#).

#### **5. Can I get Bring Back the Monarchs to Texas at the local library?**

Bring Back the Monarchs to Texas is a program from The Native Plant Society of Texas that awards small grants to nature centers, schools, educational groups and others to help fund development of Monarch Demonstration Gardens or Monarch Waystations using native plants on public sites in Texas. Application materials are available [here](#).

#### **6. What is the impact of green infrastructure on water quality and erosion mitigation?**

Green infrastructure such as constructed wetlands, urban forests, and rain gardens prevent high-volume, fast-slowng stormwater from going directly into waterways where it erodes creek beds and consequently deposits sediments into lakes. Over time, the deposition of sediment reduces the lake capacity, creating the need for lake dredging to restore water storage capacity or for a new water source. Green infrastructure traps stormwater and allows it to be reabsorbed as ground water and enter into waterways over time.

### **Additional Resources**

[What is Green Infrastructure?](#)

[Water Conservation in the Texas Drought](#)

### **Speaker Presentations:**

[Turfgrass Management with Water in Mind](#) by Dr. Chrissie Segar's

[EPA: Drought and Resilience](#) by Randy Rush

[John Bunker Sands Wetland Center](#) by Linda Dunn