Simplified Plantings for Simplified Maintenance
Replace a % of turf =
Less maintenance =
savings of money, time, fertilizers, pesticides & fuel
## Cost Comparisons

### Turfgrass
- Average turf installation per acre (seed) = $3,000
- Average turf installation per acre (sod) = $8,000
- Annual turf maintenance per acre = $1,000

### Native Prairie Seeding
- Average prairie seeding per acre = $1,500
- Annual prairie maintenance per acre = $200

### Mulched Groundcover Planting
- Average planting per 1,000 sq. ft. = $2,500
- Annual maintenance per 1,000 sq. ft. = $200

### Standard Mulched Planting Bed
- Average planting per 1,000 sq. ft. = $3,500
- Annual maintenance per 1,000 sq. ft. = $400
Seeded landscapes

• Low maintenance in the long run
• Good choice for large properties
• Can formalize edges...or not
• Results in naturalized look/habitat
• Can simplify/reduce the diversity
• Combine with planting – “hybrid” plan
Planted landscapes
• Low maintenance achieved more quickly
• Good choice for smaller areas/formal ‘zones’
• More control over final appearance
• Can create more formal naturalistic look
• Can simplify/reduce the diversity
• Combine with seeding – “hybrid” plan
Concepts for Low maintenance:

- Large masses
- Fewer species
- Longevity of species
- Right plant, right place
- Plants with wide tolerance
- Thick canopy prevents weeds
- 3-4 seasons with dense foliage eliminates weeds, need to mulch
- Fast-growing for large areas
- Slow-growing for small areas
- ‘Self-mulching’
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Sedges

*Carex albicans*
White tinged sedge

*Carex annectans*
Yellow-fruited sedge
Carex buxbaumii  Buxbaum sedge
Carex eburnea
Ivory or cedar sedge
Carex muskingumensis
Palm sedge

Carex grayii
Bur sedge
Carex praegracilis
Tollway, expressway
freeway or field sedge
Chasmanthium latifolia
River/Creek oats
Diarrhena obovatus
American beak grain
*Schizachyrium scoparium*
Little bluestem
Sporobolis heterolepis Prairie dropseed
Amsonia illustris
Shining bluestar
Aster oblongifolius
Aromatic aster
Baptisia sphaeroarpa
Yellow false indigo
Heuchera richardsonii
Prairie alum root
Iris virginica  Blue flag
Rudbeckia fulgida  Orange coneflower
Perennials – shade/part-sun
Matteuchia struthiopteris
Ostrich fern

Onoclea sensibilis
Sensitive fern
*Heuchera parviflora* – alum root

*Asarum canadense*  
wild ginger
Senecio obovatus
Round-leaved groundsel
Solidago flexicaulis  Broadleaf goldenrod
Senecio obovatus
Round-leaved groundsel
Shrubs

*Hydrangea arborescens*

Wild hydrangea
Callicarpa americana
Beautyberry
Corylus americana
American hazelnut

Ribes odorata
Golden currant
Small trees to anchor ground cover beds

Fringe tree
Green hawthorn
Hop hornbeam
Leatherwood
Redbud
Serviceberry
Witch hazel