

POST-FIRE SEEDING

First, any seeding recommendations are usually site-specific. It may be that a burned area has not burned severely enough to kill the existing seed bank. Many of the native grasses, forbs, shrubs, and even trees will resprout after a fire – you may already see some of this happening. In general, most wildland areas don't require seeding after experiencing a wildfire. Even in areas where dozers have scraped fire line, the existing seed source should germinate with wetting rains. Napa RCD recommends that if you feel the need to seed, you focus efforts on protecting your road and infrastructure within the property while letting nature take its course in the wildlands.

For Conifer Forest & Chaparral settings we recommend a quick growing but mostly sterile cereal Barley, Ryegrain, or Triticale seeds. These seeds are great for erosion control and won't leave a seedbank that would become a fuel source in the future. Most seed vendors should carry these seed mixes. They are described as follows:

Cover Crop Barley or Ryegrain – fast germinating, early maturing species. Fairly sterile and should be completely gone within 2-3 years with minor sprouting within this timeframe.

Cover Crop Triticale - A winter annual cereal that is a cross between wheat and rye. Taller in nature than barley, especially in good quality soil, and does well in water-logged areas, and or colder environments. Tolerant of many soil types. Fairly sterile and should be completely gone within 2-3 years with minor sprouting within this timeframe.

The broadcast seeding rate for both these varieties should be 80-100lbs/acre.

For oak woodland or grassland setting we recommend a native seed mix designed specifically for erosion control. These native seed mixes tend to slower to germinate so you could combine them with some of the sterile seeds listed above. We are providing information about the following vendors because of their proximity to the fire effected areas, other vendors throughout the state may have similar mixes. Ask the vendor for recommendations on lbs/ac seeding rates.

[Harmony Farm supply](#) in Sebastapol

[LeBallisters](#) in Sant Rosa

[Hedgerow Farms](#) in Winters

[Larner Seeds](#) in Bolinas