

# Native and Naturalized Turf Species Suitable for Use on Airfields Managed for Wildlife Hazards.

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## Abstract

Habitat management is an important component of an integrated approach for reducing wildlife hazards on airfields. This research examines alternative turf species that are either native or naturalized in the Northeastern US. Native turf species tend to not be attractive to wildlife due to their low palatability and seed production. Some of the species to be tested include Pennsylvania Sedge, *Carex pennsylvanica*, Little Bluestem, *Schizachyrium scoparium*, Crinkled Hair Grass, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, and Purple Love Grass, *Eragrostis spectabilis*. A greenhouse study will be carried out prior to the setting up of field plots in the spring to check suitability for hydroseeding, germination and early vigor. Field plots will be established at several airports and monitored for wildlife attraction by insects (i.e. grubs, a food source for other animals), birds (specifically Canada Geese and gulls) and mammals (specifically White tailed deer, coyote and rodents). The overall goal of the project is to provide recommendations for turf management at General Aviation Airports that can be used as part of a wildlife hazard management plan; however, results of the work can be utilized by other larger or smaller airfields with similar concerns.