

# Ornamental Native Grasses/Sedges/Rushes for Landscaping

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<u>Botanical Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Height</u>	<u>Light</u>	<u>Moisture</u>	<u>Notes</u>
<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	Big Bluestem	4-7'	sun	dry-medium	Shorter in dry soil. Best in well drained poor soil.
<i>A.ternarius</i>	Split Bluestem	2-3'	sun-pt.shade	dry-medium	Silvery white seed heads. Best in well drained poor soil.
<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>	Sideoats Grama	30"	sun	dry-medium	Tolerates dry, shallow, rocky soil.
<i>Carex albicans</i>	Oak Sedge	12-18"	shade	medium	Grass like arching attractive blades.
<i>C.cherokeensis</i>	Cherokee Sedge	6-12"	sun-pt.shade	medium-wet	Thrives in moist soil.
<i>C.eburnea</i>	Ivory Sedge	6-12"	pt.-full shade	medium	Soft, narrow clumping attractive foliage.
<i>C.flaccosperma</i>	Blue Wood Sedge	6-12"	pt.-full shade	medium-wet	Wider bluish blades (3/8") Good sub for Liriope.
<i>C.grayi</i>	Gray's Sedge	2-3'	sun-pt.shade	medium-wet	Seed heads look like spiked clubs. Wider 1/2" blades.
<i>C.laxiculmis</i>	Creeping Sedge	6-12"	pt.-full shade	medium-wet	Best in richer, moist soil. Wider 1/2" blades.
<i>C.leavenworthii</i>	Leavenworth's Sedge	8-12"	sun-shade	medium-dry	Clumping fine textured narrow leaves.
<i>C.muskingumensis</i>	Palm Sedge	2-3'	sun-light sh.	moist	Found in wooded swamps. Rare in the wild.
<i>C.shortiana</i>	Short's Sedge	1.5-2.5'	sun-pt.shade	medium-wet	Dark brown spiklets in early summer.Rare in the wild.
<i>C.vulpinoidea</i>	Brown Fox Sedge	1-3'	sun-pt.shade	wet	Seed heads that resemble a fox tail.
<i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i>	Inland Sea Oats	2-4'	sun-shade	medium-wet	* Attractive seed heads that spread aggressively.
<i>Diarrhena americana</i>	Beaked Grass	2-3'	pt.-full shade	medium-dry	Creeping rhizomes that can form dense colonies.
<i>Elymus canadensis</i>	Canada Wild Rye	2-5'	sun	dry-medium	* Arching rye like seed heads that readily reseed.
<i>E.hystrix</i>	Bottlebrush Grass	2.5-3'	sun-shade	dry-medium	* Flower heads resemble bottle brushes.
<i>E.villosus</i>	Silky Wild Rye	3'	pt.sun-lt.shade	moist-medium	* Large bristly seed heads.
<i>E.virginicus</i>	Virginia Wild Rye	2-4'	sun-pt.shade	medium	* Easily self seeds. Good for erosion control.
<i>Eragrostis spectabilis</i>	Purple Lovegrass	1-2'	sun	dry-medium	* Hazy purple seed heads. Reseeds aggressively.
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Soft Rush	2-4'	sun	wet	Vertical accent with upright stems that are soft.
<i>J.tenuis</i>	Path Rush	6-18"	sun-pt.shade	wet-medium	* Best in naturalized areas. Can look weedy.
<i>Muhlenbergia capillaris</i>	Pink Muhly Grass	2-3'	sun-pt.shade	dry-medium	Showy flower heads that look like pink clouds.
<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	Switch Grass	3-6'	sun-pt.shade	medium-wet-dry	+ Flops in rich soil. Many cultivars from 40" to 6'.
<i>Schizachrium scoparium</i>	Little Bluestem	2-4'	sun	dry-medium	Bronze orange fall color. Base of stem is blue.
<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	Indiangrass	3-5'	sun	dry-medium	Prefers poor soil. Feathery seed heads above foliage.
<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>	Prairie Dropseed	2-3'	sun	dry-medium	Fine textured arching blades form attractive mound.

\* All grasses will reseed, some more than others. Those marked with \* can be particularly aggressive and should be saved for naturalized, wilder spaces.

**A Word About Cultivars:** Whenever possible it is best to use the original species of a native plant. By definition a cultivar has been cultivated by man. If our goal is to rebuild & support healthy habitats, using the straight species is the most reliable choice. Mimicking nature as closely as possible is our best hope of rebuilding thriving ecosystems.