

NATIVE GRASSES 2018

Botanical Name	Common Name		Description	Light
<i>Acorus calamus</i>	Sweet Flag		In late spring, sword-shaped leaf blades and tiny greenish flowers appear in elongated 2"-4" long clusters. The flowers may give way to tiny fleshy berries. The foliage and rhizomes are sweetly fragrant when bruised. This low-maintenance and easy to grow plant will reach 2'-2.5' tall by 1.5'-2' wide. This plant prefers medium to wet growing conditions and is a great plant for rain gardens, consistently moist low spots, or in shallow standing water up to 9" deep.	Part Shade
<i>Andropogon Gerardi</i>	Big Bluestem		The Big Bluestem forms columnar upright clumps of green to blue-green leaves in summer. The foliage turns rich orange and copper-red in fall. Flower heads resembling upside down turkey claws appear in late August. They open red and turn darker with age. If left up, the foliage adds interest to the winter landscape and provides cover for wildlife. Use as a hedge or screen. Can be used at the back of a native plant garden. Will grow 5' to 9' tall.	Full Sun
<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>	Sideoates Grama		A native warm season perennial grass that features a distinctive oat-like spikelet that originates in a faded purple hue and lightens to tan in the fall. The fall foliage color is golden brown fading to red-orange and purple shades. Mixes well in meadow plantings, as its stature complements others well in the spring. It spreads at a very slow rate.	Full Sun
<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>	Blue Grama or Mosquito Grass		A tufted, warm season Missouri native grass. It has a distinctive arrangement of seed spikes which dangle on one side of its flowering stems. It was one of the dominant grasses of the dry short-grass prairies. The narrow, bluish-gray leaf blades typically form a dense clump growing 12" to 15" tall. The foliage turns golden brown in autumn and can develop interesting hues of orange and red. The purplish-tinged flowers appear on arching 20" stems in early to mid summer. The small size makes this grass an excellent selection for rock gardens where it can be	Full Sun

			used as a specimen or in small groupings. An excellent choice for naturalized areas, native plant gardens, meadows, prairie areas, or other informal areas in the landscape, where drought tolerant plants are needed. Can be used as a replacement to turf grass.	
<i>Carex albicans</i>	Whitetinge Sedge or oak sedge		A perennial sedge that grows in a clump to 15" to 20" tall. It is native in Missouri, and found throughout the State. The narrow, grass-like, upright-arching, bright green leaf blades grow to 18" tall and the clumps grow 18" wide. Flowers bloom in late spring on flowering stems rising to as much as 20" tall. This species tolerates dry soil conditions. The plants will slowly spread by rhizomes and will self-seed in optimum growing conditions. This sedge is easily grown in medium moisture soils	Does best in Part to Full Shade (Will tolerate some sun)
<i>Carex amphibola</i>	Creek Sedge		A widely adaptable, long-lived native sedge. This compact sedge grows in a semi-erect mound and is easily grown in fine or medium textured soils. This sedge works well in native shade gardens or along a woodland path. It is a vigorous clump-forming sedge that has shiny, narrow green foliage 1/8" wide by up to 12" long.	Shade
<i>Carex annectens</i>	Yellow Fruited Sedge		Native to North America. Its habitats include prairies, wetlands and sedge meadows. Its green foliage is narrow and produces attractive yellow seed heads on stems that rise above the foliage. This sedge forms an attractive stand when massed. Great plant for rain gardens and native meadow plantings. This medium to fast-growing sedge prefers moist, well drained soil.	Part Shade
<i>Carex bicknellii</i>	Bicknell's Sedge		<i>C. bicknellii</i> may be used in establishing native plants in dry sites such as meadows, prairies, and along roadsides or in moist locations such as wet meadows. This sedge is more tolerant of dry conditions than others, but can also grow in very moist conditions. It can be used to establish native plants in dry meadows, prairies, roadsides, or wet meadows. Its flowering heads get up to 3 ft. high. The seedheads are more short-lived than other sedges.	

<i>Carex brevior</i>	Shortbeak Sedge		Also called Plains Oval Sedge, this native loves the cool-weather season. It has ornamental seed heads that are prickly green ovals. This versatile sedge grows in prairies and wetlands, tolerating dry, mesic, or wet soil. It grows 1'-4' tall.	Sun/ Part Shade
<i>Carex buxbaumii</i>	Brown Bog Sedge		Native to much of the northern hemisphere. This sedge grows well in marshes and fens. It grows in clumps from long rhizomes, growing up to 3' tall. The leaves are narrow and small. The flower head has a bract which is sometimes longer than the spikes. They prefer to be grown in wet soil.	Full Sun
<i>Carex crinita</i>	Fringed Sedge		An evergreen sedge with shiny green-blue foliage. Fountain-like leaves get to be about 3' in height. Leafy culm rise to a height of 2'-3' tall. Fringe-like droopy flowers bloom late spring. Best grown in wet or moist conditions in full sun to part shade.	Full Sun/ Part Shade
<i>Carex eburnea</i>	Bristle-leaved/ Cedar Sedge		This native sedge is often found in rocky crevices such as limestone bluffs and sandier areas. Used to naturalize landscapes, this sedge has thin green leaves and insignificant flowers.	Part Shade to Full Shade

<i>Carex flaccosperma</i>	Blue Wood Sedge		This sedge makes a beautiful native shady groundcover with its striking blue foliage. It is low-maintenance and easy to grow. Early spring flowers are slender and form interesting seedheads. It is a slow spreader and mixes well with wildflowers and ferns. The evergreen clumps grow 6"-10" tall, with bluish, quilted, 1/2" wide leaves and will spread to 1' tall. This sedge is adaptable to a wide range of soils and is quite drought-tolerant once established. Cut foliage to the ground in early spring before new growth occurs. May be used in containers, as a groundcover in the shade, and in a rock garden.	Bright Shade
<i>Carex frankii</i>	Frank's Sedge		This sedge is native to North America. It can be found in wet prairies, at the edges of bodies of water, wet meadows, and floodplains. This sedge grows has a mounded habit with whitish foliage. In late spring, it produces green, spiky 1" long seedheads. <i>Carex frankii</i> is adaptable to both sun and part shade and prefers the moist or wet conditions. Useful for rain gardens or wet spots, naturalizing and at edges of ponds. Will grow fast in moist, well-drained soil.	Part Shade
<i>Carex muskingumensis</i>	Palm Sedge		This slow-spreading carex and one of the best. The palm sedge is easy to grow and exotic looking. The glossy green leaves branch out from the main stem similar to a palm tree. Native to wooded lowlands, it does best in slightly damp soil in the shade. Makes an excellent groundcover, and thrives in clay! The palm-like texture of the leaves are especially effective when used with broader leaved plants in the shade garden. A great plant for swales and rain gardens. Makes a great "filler" plant or makes a striking stand when planted in a mass. Brilliant yellow fall color. Grows 2' to 3' tall.	Shade

<i>Carex pennsylvanica</i>	Oak Sedge		The Oak Sedge has fine-textured leaves and a creeping habit which make this a great lawn alternative for dry soils in shade. Planted one foot on center, it will fill in to form a dense low growing turf that never needs mowing. Grows 6"-1' and requires a well-drained soil.	Part to Full Shade
<i>Carex praegracilis</i>	Tollway Sedge		The Tollway Sedge is a short, lush sedge that naturalizes easily and is great to use between landscape stones. It is hardy to around 10° F and most likely to come back from the underground rhizomes after lower temperatures. This sedge grows 6"-8" tall by 6"-12" wide. Prefers moist, well-drained soil. Use in moist borders, massed, in woodland gardens, or bogs.	Part Shade
<i>Carex radiata</i>	Eastern Star Sedge		The Eastern Star Sedge is an attractive, ornamental perennial sedge that forms dense tufts of slender leaf blades reaching 1'-2' tall and wide. The small star-like flower clusters rise in late spring ranging in size from 1"-3" in length. They can tolerate moist to dry conditions, but prefer a rich loamy soil. This sedge is slow to spread as the seeds attract a variety of songbirds.	Part Sun/Shade
<i>Carex stricta</i>	Tussock Sedge		The Tussock Sedge forms dense mounds of rich green, fine-bladed foliage. It tolerates a wide range of soil moisture and shade. It is a useful grass for swales, around the edge of ponds, streams, or in moist soil as a groundcover. This sedge grows only 12"-18" inches tall and will spread 18"-30" inches.	Part to Full Shade

<i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i>	River Oates		River Oates has upright clumps of bamboo-like foliage. The green leaves turn copper in fall and brown in winter. The attractive flat flower spikes droop down from stems. It prefers light shade and damp soil. This grass can grow 2' to 5' tall by 1'-2.5' wide. It can self-sow prolifically. Use in borders, shade gardens, native plantings, naturalized areas, or on the edges of a water garden.	Part Sun
<i>Diarrhena obovata</i>	Missouri Beakgrain		A Missouri native woodland perennial grass that is attractive and easy to grow. It is clump forming and grows 2'-3' tall and as wide. The long, arching leaves are attractive in winter when they are a bright tan color. This grass naturalizes by slender, creeping rhizomes. It is easily grown in moist, rich soils. This is a tough, spreading, ornamental grass for shady areas. Mass in woodland areas, shade gardens, slopes, pond margins, naturalized areas, or native plant gardens.	Part to Full Shade
<i>Elymus Canadensis glaucifolius</i>	Canadian or Great Plains Wild Rye		A native to much of North America, being most abundant in the central plains and Great Plains. This grass is extremely easy and fast to grow. It will grow 36"-72" tall and prefers average, well-drained soil. It can be planted for soil stabilization and will also attract wildlife. Great for winter interest.	Part to Full Sun
<i>Equisetum hymale</i>	Horestail Rush or Scouring Rush		One of the oldest plants to be used by man. It will grow 2'-4' tall and is a durable plant. It has jointed, hollow stems that are furrowed and green with black bands that give it a bamboo-like appearance. Plant in moist soil. Use in water gardens, rain gardens, containers, or in spots where nothing else will grow. <i>This plant can become invasive.</i>	Part Sun/Shade

<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Soft Rush		Soft Rush boasts grass-like stems. It grows in clumps that rarely intrude upon other plants. Each stem bears a cluster of very small, greenish brown, scaly flowers that bloom in July through September from a point on the stalk near the top. This small grass grows only 1' tall and prefers moist to wet soils. Use around the edges of a pond or water garden or in moist containers.	Sun to Part Shade
<i>Juncus tenuis</i>	Poverty Rush		Green foliage during spring and summer and will turn brown with frost. The insignificant tiny flowers are clustered at or near the stem tips. This little grass grows only 2' tall by 2' wide in average to wet soil. Use at the edge of a pond, a rain garden, or as a groundcover to help control erosion.	Part to Full Shade
<i>Koeleria macrantha</i>	June Grass		June Grass produces lustrous silver-green seed heads in early summer. The supporting foliage is an attractive green-gray color. June Grass grows actively when soil temps are cooler (spring and fall). It grows 2' to 3' tall and prefers dry, sandy soil.	Full Sun
<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	Little Bluestem		An ornamental clump forming grass with fine-textured foliage that forms very dense mounds of blue-green leaves that turn reddish orange in the fall and grow 18" to 24" tall by 1' wide. The fluffy silver seed heads appear on 3' stalks and provide winter interest.	Full Sun

<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	Indian Grass		<p>A warm season perennial grass which is seen in prairies, glades, and open woods. It was one of the dominant grasses of the tall-grass prairie which once covered large parts of the midwest. <i>Sorghastrum</i> grows 3' to 5' tall and is noted for its upright form and foliage. It forms upright clumps of slender, blue-green leaves. The foliage turns orange-yellow in fall. The stiff, vertical flowering stems, are topped with narrow, feathery, light brown seed heads that rise well above the foliage in late summer to 5' to 6' tall. The seedheads continue to provide winter interest. It is easily grown in average, dry to medium, well-drained soils. It is tolerant of a wide range of soils. Cut back to the ground in late winter to early spring just before the new growth appears. Mass or blend into prairies, meadows, wild or naturalized areas. Vertical accent for borders. Also effective on slopes for erosion control.</p>	Full Sun
<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>	Prairie Dropseed		<p>Fine-textured, distinctive bunch-grass with emerald green leaves that curve gracefully outward forming large, round tufts. The 2' tall delicate seedheads appear above the tuft in August and give off a distinct aroma. These graceful clumps turn yellow or deep orange in fall and grow only 1' to 3' tall.</p>	Full Sun

