



# Grasses - Pg 1



## Big Bluestem

*Andropogon gerardii*

Native. Ornamental qualities, color changes from green to blue-green in summer, to deep red-bronze in fall. Sun, H 5-8' (with inflorescence) x W 2'. Zones 3-9.

<https://www.flickr.com/people/35478170@N08> Matt Levin



## Bluebunch Wheatgrass

*Pseudogeneria spicata*

Native. Drought tolerant, cool season grass, goes dormant in late summer. Has a nice upright shape with green leaves and golden seed heads. Sun to part shade. H 18-48" (with inflorescence)

Zones 3-7. <https://www.flickr.com/people/35478170@N08> Matt Lavin



## Blue Fescue

*Festuca glauca*

Native. Drought tolerant, cool season grass, goes dormant in late summer. Has a nice upright shape with green leaves and golden seed heads. Sun to part shade. H 18-48" (with inflorescence) Zones 3-7.

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Longwood\\_Gardens](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Longwood_Gardens)





# Grasses - Pg 2



## Blue Oat Grass

*Helictotrichon sempervirens*

Native. Ornamental qualities, color changes from green to blue-green in summer, to deep red-bronze in fall. Sun, H 5-8' (with inflorescence) x W 2'. Zones 3-9.

<https://www.flickr.com/people/35478170@N08> Matt Lavin



## Bottlebrush Squirreltail

*Elymus elymoides*

Native. Cool season grass, emerges and blooms spring to early summer. Drought tolerant, fire resistant. Bright green with bristly seedhead. Domestic and wildlife forage, especially when young. Can spread by seed. Prefers full sun. 8"-25" tall with inflorescence. Zones 3-9. [https://www.flickr.com/photos/plant\\_diversity/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/plant_diversity/) Matt Lavin



## Idaho Fescue

*Festuca Idahoensis*

Native. Small evergreen clump forming grass. Drought tolerant and deer resistant. Excellent for erosion control. Sun. H 12-24" x W 8-10". Zones 4-8.

Photo: Bryan Olsen 2009 via Wikicommons



**\*Limited quantities of all plants, so inclusion on this list is no guarantee of availability\***





# Grasses - Pg 3



## Indian Rice Grass

*Achnatherum hymenoides*

Native. Seeds are edible, fixes nitrogen in the soil. Seed pods can be used in flower arrangements. Sun. 8-30" (with inflorescence) x W 18-24". Zones 3-9.

Photo by: Tonuy Frates



## Japanese Blood Grass

*Imperata cylindrica*

Deer resistant, good for erosion control. Cut to ground in late winter before new growth emerges. Full sun, moist well-drained soil. H 1-2'. Zones 5-9.

Photo by: Jim Hood, 2007



## Mace Sedge

*Carex grayii*

Native to eastern North America. Interesting mace-like flower spikes appear in early summer. These can be dried and used in dried flower arrangements. Medium water, tolerates wet soil. Deer resistant. Can re-seed. Full to part sun. Grows 2-3' tall x 1-2' wide. Zones 4-8.

Photo by: [Agnieszka Kwiecień, Nova](#), 2010





# Grasses - Pg 4



## Muhly Grass

*Muhlenbergia capillaris*

A clump-forming warm season grass, emerge late spring to early summer, blooms late summer. When in bloom the inflorescence has the appearance of a pink cloud floating above the foliage. Full sun to part shade. Native to western central U.S. Drought tolerant and deer resistant. Grows 2-3' tall x 2-3' wide. Zones 5-11.

Photo by John Winder, 2010



## Karl Foerster

*Calamagrostis acutifolia*

Dramatic red bronze seed spikes in early summer that last into winter. Clump forming cool season grass. Drought tolerant. Zones 5-11. Sun. H 4-6' (with inflorescence) x W 2-3'.

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?title=User:Satin66Flower&action=edit&redlink=1>



## Little Bluestem

*Schizachyrium scoparium*

Native. Blue foliage with occasional pinkish-purple striations, topped by fluffy silvery gold or white seed heads. Turns copper color with frost. Sun (has a tendency to flop in too much shade). H 12-24". Zones 3-10.

Photo: Dan Keck via Wikicommons



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# Grasses - Pg 5



## *Miscanthus sinensis*

varieties

Full sun to part shade. Warm season grass, new growth in late spring/early summer. Can be cut down in fall or late winter. Drought tolerant. Size is variable from 2' to 7 or 8'. Zones 4-9

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/User:Kenraiz>.



## Needle and Thread Grass

*Hesperostipa comata*

Native. Zones 4-8. Full sun. Grows to 40" tall. Drought tolerant. Not deer resistant.

Cool season clump-forming grass. Develops unusual long, twisted seed heads.

<https://www.flickr.com/people/35478170@N08>



## Overdam

*Calamagrostis arundinacea*

Relative of Karl Foerster with similar growth habit. Instead of solid green foliage, Overdam is variegated with white striping on the outer margins. Cool season grass emerges in early spring.

<https://www.flickr.com/people/50697352@N00>



## Pine Grass

*Calamagrostis rubescens*

Native. Drought tolerant, clump forming. Host plant for a variety of moths and butterflies. Grows wild in the understory of pine forests. H 24-36".

Photo: Matt Levin, 2016 via wikicommons



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WSU EXTENSION  
Spokane County



# Grasses - Pg 6



## Prairie Dropseed

*Sporobolus heterolepis*

Native.,. Benefit to wildlife, host plant for two rare species of leafhoppers. Seeds are eaten by various bird species. Root mass is a nesting site for native bees. Full sun, drought tolerant, deer resistant. H 2-3' with inflorescence. Zones 3-8. Photo: David J. Stang, 2006 via Wiki commonS



## Prairie Junegrass

*Koeleria macrantha*

Native. Cool season bunchgrass, goes dormant in summer. Blooms yellow in early spring. H 6-24" with inflorescence x W 12-24". Zones 4-10. Photo: Matt Lavin 2018 via wikicommons



## Switchgrass

*Panicum virgatum*

Warm season grass, shows new growth in late spring/early summer. Attractive upright grass with airy seed heads. Full sun to part shade, drought tolerant and deer resistant. H 14-55" with inflorescence. Zones 3-9.

Photo: David Stang, 2006 via Wikicommons



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## Sweetgrass

*Hierochloa odorata*

Native. Spreads by underground rhizomes. Has a light vanilla fragrance. Considered sacred by many Indigenous Peoples. Prefers full sun to light shade and moist, but not wet, soil. Grows 10-24" tall with inflorescence. Zones 3-9. <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/User:SriMesh>

## Tufted Hair Grass

*Deschampsia cespitosa*

Native. Clumping ornamental has fine hair-like seed heads that rise 2-3 feet above the clump. Larval plant food for several butterflies. Part sun, drought tolerant. H 12-36" with inflorescence x W 12-24". Zones 4-8. [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/User:Lilly\\_M](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/User:Lilly_M)



## Zebra Grass

*Miscanthus sinensis* 'Little Zebra'

Green foliage with distinctive horizontal gold banding. Deer resistant. Cut down in fall or early spring before new growth emerges. Full sun to part shade. Drought tolerant. H 3-4' x W 2-3'. Zones 4-9. <https://www.flickr.com/photos/50697352@N00/> F.D. Richards

