

## ANDROPOGON (BIG BLUESTEM)

**Location:** Zone 4, sun, tolerated dry sites

**Shape:** Upright clump

**Foliage:** Silvery blue to purple

**Flowers:** Late summer into fall

**Notes:** This tall grass is native to much of the Great Plains and prairie regions. The species is tolerant of a wide range of soil conditions. The stem base turns blue or purple as it matures, giving it its name.

### **Big Bluestem**

#### **Zone 4**

4-6' x 2-3'

Silvery blue foliage turns a rich bronze color in fall. Purplish seed heads appear from August to September.



### **Blackhawks**

**Zone 4** PP 27,949

4-5' x 2'

Multi-colored stalks turn a dark purple mid-summer and are near black by autumn. Topped with small, plume-like seed heads.



## BOUTELOUA (BLUE GRAMA GRASS)

**Location:** Zone 4, sun to part shade, well-drained soil

**Shape:** Upright, rounded

**Foliage:** Blue-green, tan in fall

**Flowers:** Summer through winter

**Notes:** This native grass has attractive blue-green foliage and striking golden-blond seed heads from June through winter. Low maintenance and tolerant of many soil types but prefers well-drained soil.

### **Blonde Ambition**

#### **Zone 4**

4-6' x 2-3'

Blue-green foliage turns tan in the fall. Taller than the native species. Seed heads are very showy June through winter.



# CALAMAGROSTIS (FEATHER REED)

**Location:** Zone 4, sun to light shade

**Shape:** Upright, arching clumps

**Foliage:** Green or variegated

**Flowers:** Summer to fall

**Notes:** These grasses typically form large, dense, erect clumps of narrow, hairless, flattened, green leaves from which rise stiffly upright flowering stalks in summer bearing narrow flower plumes followed by often persistent golden-brown seed head.

## **Avalanche**

### **Zone 4**

36-48" x 24"

Variegated cream and white foliage and golden-brown, wheat-like seed heads from July to frost.



## **Karl Foerster**

### **Zone 4**

36" x 18"

Pink flowers mature to golden-brown seed heads from June through fall. Green foliage turns golden yellow in the fall.



## **Korean Feather Reed**

### **Zone 4**

30" x 18"

*C. brachytricha* have bright large, full seed heads are golden-brown from August to frost. Bright green foliage turns golden yellow.



## **Overdam**

### **Zone 4**

36" x 18"

Upright, arching clumps of green and white variegated leaves that turn golden yellow in the fall. Seed heads are pink turning golden.



## CAREX (SEDGE)

**Location:** Zones 3 to 4, part sun to shade, tolerates wet or dry conditions

**Shape:** Clumping to spreading

**Foliage:** Deep green to blue-green, grass-like

**Flowers:** Spring to summer

**Notes:** Carex are not technically a grass, but a grass-like plant called a sedge. They grow best in moist, somewhat shady sites and some varieties are semi-evergreen. Some varieties are native.

### **Blue Zinger**

#### **Zone 4**

10-16" x 12-18"

Dense clump of blue-green grass-like foliage & greenish white flowerheads appear in May and June but are not particularly showy.



### **Pennsylvania**

#### **Zone 3**

8-10" x 12-18"

This native sedge has deep green, semi-evergreen foliage and unspectacular, whitish flower spikes in May and June.



## DESCHAMPSIA (TUFTED HAIR)

**Location:** Zones 4, part sun, moist or boggy sites

**Shape:** Clumping

**Foliage:** Green, semi-evergreen

**Flowers:** Summer to fall

**Notes:** Deschampsia, commonly called tufted hair grass, is a clump-forming, cool season grass which is often grown as an ornamental. It typically forms a low, dense clump of dark green grass blades. Numerous flower stems rise in summer from the foliage bearing wide, airy panicles.

### **Pixie Fountain**

#### **Zone 4**

24" x 24"

Fine, airy panicles form a cloud over the foliage and turn yellowish-tan as the seeds mature.



## FESTUCA (BLUE FESCUE)

**Location:** Zones 4, sun, well-drained soil

**Shape:** Dense mound

**Foliage:** Fine, powdery blue

**Flowers:** Summer

**Notes:** Tolerates light shade, but best foliage color is in full sun. Tolerant of drought and poor soils. Intolerant of wet, poorly-drained soils. Foliage is semi-evergreen. Clumps tend to die out in the center and need to be divided and replanted or replaced every 2-3 years.

**Elijah Blue**

**Zone 4**

8" x 8"

Light brown flower spikes appear in June above the fine, powdery blue foliage.



## HAKONECHLOA (JAPANESE FOREST)

**Location:** Zone 5, part shade

**Shape:** Spreading clump

**Foliage:** Variegated green and gold

**Flowers:** Summer to fall

**Notes:** Listed as a zone 5 but does well in zone 4 if protected. Best grown in consistently moist, well-drained soils in part shade. Tolerates close to full shade. Mulch in the winter.

**Aureola**

**Zone 5**

12-18' x 12-18'

Bright foliage is variegated green and gold. Yellow-green seed heads are present from July to September.



## HELICTOTRICHON (BLUE OAT)

**Location:** Zones 4, sun, well-drained soil

**Shape:** Clump, arching stems

**Foliage:** Long, arching, blue

**Flowers:** Spring

**Notes:** Steel blue leaf blades form a rounded, porcupine-like clump. Spikelets of bluish-brown flowers appear on erect stems rising well above the foliage in May. Flower spikelets mature to a golden wheat color by fall. Best blue color occurs in drier soils.

### **Blue Oat**

#### **Zone 4**

24-30" x 18"

Showy blue flower spikes turn tan by fall. Arching steel blue, stiff leaves create a rounded clump.



## JUNCUS (RUSH GRASS)

**Location:** Zones 4, sun to part shade, moist to wet soil

**Shape:** Upright clump, spreading by rhizome

**Foliage:** Green, shiny and smooth

**Flowers:** insignificant

**Notes:** Giant Corkscrew Rush have uniquely spiraling foliage. These twisting green curls are deer resistant and low maintenance. Provides a great accent in water gardens or wet areas in the landscape.

### **Big Twister**

#### **Zone 4**

15-24" x 15-24"

Tall, upright clump of shiny and smooth green twisty foliage. Curlier spirals than the species.



# MISCANTHUS (MAIDEN GRASS)

**Location:** Zones 4, sun

**Shape:** Upright clump

**Foliage:** Green turning red in fall

**Flowers:** Summer to fall

**Notes:** A versatile ornamental grass, but clumps need lots of room. Tall and upright, but sometimes slow to emerge in the spring. Tolerant of a wide range of soils from well-drained sandy soils to heavy clay. Will also tolerate summer heat and humidity.

**Flame**

**Zone 4**

48" x 48"

Foliage is green with a red tint, turns red-orange in fall, and is topped by large, silvery plumes.



**Graziella**

**Zone 4**

60" x 36"

Green foliage turns a coppery-red in fall and is topped by large, silvery plumes.



# MOLINA (MOOR GRASS)

**Location:** Zones 4, sun to part shade

**Shape:** Mounded clump

**Foliage:** Green and gold variegated

**Flowers:** Summer to fall

**Notes:** The mature plants may produce profuse numbers of erect to slightly arching flowering stems, however, the flowering stems have a certain transparent quality. Prefers acidic soils with consistent moisture and tolerates light shade .

**Variegata**

**Zone 4**

24" x 24"

Green and gold variegated leaves and gold to bronze seed heads from June through September.



# PANICUM (SWITCH GRASS)

**Location:** Zone 4, sun to light shade

**Shape:** Upright clump

**Foliage:** Green to blue-green or reddish-green

**Flowers:** Summer to fall

**Notes:** Panicum is a clump-forming, warm season grass. Foliage is topped in mid-summer by finely-textured, pink-tinged, flower panicles which hover over the foliage like an airy cloud. Panicles turn beige as the seeds mature in fall with the seed plumes persisting well into winter.

## **Cheyenne Sky**

**Zone 4 PP 23,209**

30-36" x 18"

Blue-green foliage turns wine red in the summer. Airy, purple panicles persist from August until frost.



## **Ruby Ribbons™**

**Zone 4 PP 17,944**

30-40" x 24-30"

Wide, blue-green foliage turns purple-red by mid-summer. Purple plumes extend from late summer into winter.



## **Northwind**

**Zone 4**

60" x 36"

Olive-green to bluish-green leaves turn yellow-beige in fall. Finely textured, yellow panicles appear in August.



## **Shenandoah**

**Zone 4**

48" x 18"

Foliage is green with red tones and turn a deep burgundy in fall. Airy, brown panicles appear in August.



# SCHIZACHYRIUM (LITTLE BLUESTEM)

**Location:** Zones 3 to 4, sun to part shade

**Shape:** Upright or spreading clump

**Foliage:** Blue turning red or orange in fall

**Flowers:** Late summer to fall

**Notes:** Native to prairies and fields in many parts of central North America. Many consider the most outstanding ornamental feature of this grass to be its bronze-orange fall foliage color.

## **Blue Heaven**

**Zone 3 PP 17,310**

36-48" x 18-24"

Blue foliage turns red, burgundy, & purple in fall. Reddish purple seed heads appear in September and October.



## **Little Bluestem**

**Zone 4**

30-36" x 15"

Blue foliage turns a rich orange in fall and purple-red seed heads bloom from August to September.



## **Standing Ovation**

**Zone 3 PP 25,202**

36-48" x 24"

Blue-green foliage turns brilliant shades of orange and red in fall. Silver flower spikes bloom in September.



## SPOROBOLUS (PRAIRIE DROPSEED)

**Location:** Zones 3, sun to part shade, dry soil

**Shape:** Upright and arching

**Foliage:** Green turning golden-orange in fall

**Flowers:** Summer to fall

**Notes:** This clump-forming, warm season native is tolerant of a wide range of soils, including heavy clay. Flowers are most noted for their unique fragrance (hints of coriander.) Tiny rounded mature seeds drop to the ground from their hulls in autumn giving it its common name.

### **Prairie Dropseed**

#### **Zone 3**

24" x 24"

Tan, airy panicles appear from August to September. Green foliage turns golden orange in fall.



## PENNISETUM (FOUNTAIN GRASS)

**Location:** Zones 4, sun to light shade

**Shape:** Upright clump

**Foliage:** Green turning orange in fall

**Flowers:** Summer to fall

**Notes:** These plants exhibit feathery, spike-like panicles atop linear leaves in summer and autumn. It is adaptable to a wide range of garden sites, but does best in light, average, well-drained soil and full sun.

### **Hameln**

#### **Zone 4**

24" x 30"

Deep green foliage turns orange-bronze in fall. Fluffy, arching buff-colored plumes bloom from August to October.

