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	Andropogon gerardii	
4-6' x 2-3'	Full Sun	Zone 4

Upright clump of silvery blue foliage turns a rich bronze color in fall. Purplish seed heads appear from August to September. Drought tolerant; native.

Blackhawks	Andropogon gerarda	Andropogon gerardii Blackhawks' PP 27,949	
4-5' x 1.5-2'	Full Sun	Zone 4	
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Upright clump with multi-colored stalks that turn a dark purple mid-summer and are near black by autumn. Topped with small, plume-like seed heads. Drought tolerant.

Red October	Andropogon gerare	lii 'Red October' PP 26,283	
4-6' x 2-3'	Full Sun	Zone 4	
Leaves emerge deep or	en with red tones rem	in green in summer nurnlish-red by l	ate sum-

Leaves emerge deep green with red tones, remain green in summer, purplish-red by late summer and vivid scarlet red after first fall frost. Burgundy red flowers bloom in August.







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-blonde seed heads from June through winter. Low maintenance and tolerant of many soil types but prefers well-drained soil.

Blonde AmbitionBouteloua gracilis Blonde Ambition' PP 22,04836" x 30-36"Sun/part shadeZone 4

Blue-green foliage forms an upright, rounded clump. Foliage turns tan in the fall with golden -blonde seed heads. Prefers well-drained soil.



CALAMAGROSTIS (FEATHER REED)

Location: Zone 4, sun to light shade

Shape: Upright, arching clumps

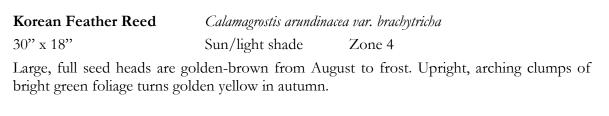
Foliage: Green or variegated

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.

Karl FoersterCalamagrostis acutiflora Karl Foerster'36" x 18"Sun/light shadeZone 4

Pink flowers mature to golden-brown seed heads from June through fall. Upright, arching clumps of green foliage turns golden yellow in the fall.



Overdam

Calamagrostis arundinacea 'Overdam'

Zone 4

36" x 18" Full Sun

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





CAREX (SEDGE)

Location: Zones 3 to 4, 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	Carex flauca Blue Zinger	وم
10-16" x 12-18"	Part sun/shade	Zone 4/5

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

Bowles Golden	Carex elata Bowles Golden'	
20-24" x 24-30"	Sun/part shade	Zone 4

Forms clumps of semi-evergreen, bright gold foliage with a thin green margin. Brown flowers are inconspicuous. Does well in wet or boggy locations.

Pensylvanica	Carex pensylvanica	
8-10" x 12-18"	Part sun/shade	Zone 3

Low spreading groundcover with deep green, semi-evergreen foliage and unspectacular, whitish flower spikes in May and June. Tolerates wet or dry soil. Native.







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 BlueFestuca glauca 'Elijah Blue'8" x 8"Full SunZone 4

Light brown flower spikes appear in June above the fine, powdery blue, semi-evergreen foliage. Forms a small, dense mound. Prefers well-drained soil and is drought tolerant.



HAKONECHLOA (JAPANESE FOREST)

Location: Zone 4/5, part shade

Shape: Spreading clump

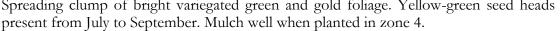
Foliage: Variegated green and gold

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.

Golden VariegatedHakonechloa macra 'Aureola'12-18" x 12-18"Part sunZone 4

12-18" x 12-18"Part sunZone 4/5Spreading clump of bright variegated green and gold foliage. Yellow-green seed heads are





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 bluishbrown 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

Helictotrichon sempervirens

24-30" x 18" Full Sun Zone 4

Showy blue flower spikes turn tan by fall. Arching steel blue, stiff leaves create a rounded, porcupine-like clump. Prefers well-drained soil and is drought tolerant.



MISCANTHUS (MAIDEN GRASS)

Location:	Zones 4, sun
Shape:	Upright clump
Foliage:	Green turning red in fall
Flowers:	Summer to fall

A versatile ornamental grass, but clumps need lots of room. Tall and upright, but Notes: 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.

Miscanthus sinensis Purpurascens' Flame 48" x 48" Full Sun Zone 4

Tight, upright clumps of green with a red tint turn red-orange in fall. In late summer, large, silvery plumes appear. Slow to emerge in spring. Adaptable to many soil types.

Huron Sunrise	Miscanthus sinensis	Huron Sunrise'
60-72" x 36"	Full Sun	Zone 4

Green w/silver mid-ribs develop very full, burgundy seedheads in late summer and become silvery-white plumes by fall. Foliage turns golden in autumn. Drought tolerant.





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 .

VariegataMolina caerulea var. 'Variegata'24" x 24"Sun/part shadeZone 4

Mounded clump of green and gold variegated leaves. Slightly arching stems with gold to bronze seed heads from June through September have a transparent quality.



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.

Northwind Panicum virgatum Northwind' 60" x 36" Sun/part shade Zone 4

Olive-green to bluish-green leaves turn yellow-beige in fall. Finely textured, yellow panicles appear in August. Forms an upright, compact clump. Does well in moist soil.

Shenandoah

Panicum virgatum 'Shenandoah' Full Sun

48" x 18"

Zone 4

Upright, slightly arching foliage is green with red tones and turn a deep burgundy in fall. Airy, brown panicles appear in August.





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.

HamelnPennisetum alopecuroides 'Hameln'24" x 30"Sun/part shadeZone 4

Upright clumps of deep green foliage turn orange-bronze in fall. Fluffy, arching, buff-colored plumes bloom from August to October. Adaptable to a wide range of soils.



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 HeavenTMSchizachyrium scoparium MinnblueA' PP 17,31036-48" x 18-24"Sun/part shadeZone 3

Spreading clumps of blue foliage turn red, burgundy, & purple in fall. Reddish purple seed heads appear in September and October. Drought tolerant.

Chameleon	Schizachyrium scoparium	'Chameleon' PP 31,339
18-24" x 18-24"	Full Sun	Zone 3
		T 1 1 1

White and green striped leaves appear in early spring. In late summer, it develops a strong flush of pink and purple. Compact habit, salt and drought tolerant; low maintenance.

Little Bluestem

30-36" x 15"

Schizachyrium scoparium

Full Sun

Blue foliage turns a rich orange in fall and purple-red seed heads bloom from August to September. Forms upright clumps. Tolerates wet sites. Native.

Standing Ovation	Schizachyrium scope
36-48" x 24"	Sun/part shade

Schizachyrium scoparium 'Standing Ovation' PP 25,202 Sun/part shade Zone 3

Zone 4

Blue-green foliage turns brilliant shades of orange and red in fall. Silver flower spikes bloom in September. Forms upright, sturdy clumps. Drought tolerant.









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 DropseedSporobolus heterolepsis24" x 24"Sun/part shadeZone 3

Tan, airy panicles appear from August to September. Upright arches of green foliage turns golden orange in fall. Tolerates a wide range of soils. Native.



Tara

Sporobolus heterolepsis 'Tara'

18-24" x 8-12" Sun/part shade Zone 4

Dwarf form that holds its golden seed heads more upright. Green foliage turns golden orange in fall. Drought tolerant.

