



Chapter 3

A Partial Listing of Kentucky's Native Grasses



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Kentucky Native Grasses









Other decorative or useful plants to use in the native plantings, including meadows, rain gardens, or in dramatic groupings, are the native grasses found in Kentucky. These plants are being crowded out by many invasive grasses listed in Chapter 6, or are being eaten by the wildlife to endangerment because these plants are more nutritious and filling than the invasive species. Many of the grasses are used in native meadow or prairie seed mixes, but may also be used as decorative plots in the homeowner's lawn, or as single plants or groupings to add variety to a native plant garden.









There are many nurseries specializing in native wildflowers or plants, while others may be ordered in bulk in meadow mixes. Most of the grasses are also native to other states.









Table I - Partial Listing of Kentucky's Native Grasses









Common Name <i>Scientific Name</i>	Description	Picture
<p style="text-align: center;">Beakgrass <i>Diarrhena americana</i></p> 	<p>Height - 1' to 3' Sun - FS/Sh Soil - A, D Color - Attraction: Bird - Humming Bird - Butterfly/Moth - Y General Wildlife - P Comment:</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Bearded Short-husk <i>Brachyelytrum erectum</i></p> 	<p>Height - X to X Sun - X Soil - X Color - Attraction: Bird - Humming Bird - Butterfly/Moth - Y General Wildlife - Comment:</p>	



<p>Common Name <i>Scientific Name</i></p>	<p>Description</p>	<p>Picture</p>
<p>Blue Wood Sedge <i>Carex flaccosperma</i></p> 	<p>Height - 6" to 10" Sun - FSh/PSH Soil - X Color - Attraction: Bird - Humming Bird - Butterfly/Moth - Y General Wildlife - P Comment:</p>	
<p>Bluestem, Big <i>Andropogon gerardi</i></p> 	<p>Height - 3' to 6' Sun - FS Soil - X Color - Attraction: Bird - Humming Bird - Butterfly/Moth - Y General Wildlife - P Comment:</p>	
<p>Bluestem, Split-Beard <i>Andropogon ternarius</i></p> 	<p>Height - X to X Sun - FS Soil - X Color - Y Attraction: Bird - Humming Bird - Butterfly/Moth - Y General Wildlife - Comment:</p>	
<p>Bottlebrush Grass <i>Elymus hystrix</i></p> 	<p>Height - 2' to 4' Sun - Sh/PSH Soil - X Color - Attraction: Bird - Humming Bird - Butterfly/Moth - Y General Wildlife - P Comment:</p>	

Common Name <i>Scientific Name</i>	Description	Picture
<p>Bulrush, Dark Green <i>Scirpus atrovirens</i></p> 	<p>Height - 3' to 5' Sun - X Soil - X Color - Attraction: Bird - Humming Bird - Butterfly/Moth - Y General Wildlife - P Comment:</p>	
<p>Eastern Gamma Grass <i>Tripsacum dactyloides</i></p> 	<p>Height - 6' to Sun - FS/PS Soil - M Color - Attraction: Bird - Humming Bird - Butterfly/Moth - Y General Wildlife - P Comment:</p>	
<p>Giant Plume-grass <i>Saccharum giganteum</i></p> 	<p>Height - 10' to Sun - FS Soil - A Color - Attraction: Bird - Humming Bird - Butterfly/Moth - Y General Wildlife - Comment:</p>	
<p>Indian Grass/Woolgrass <i>Sorghastrum nutans</i></p> 	<p>Height - 5' to 6' Sun - X Soil - X Color - Attraction: Bird - Humming Bird - Butterfly/Moth - Y General Wildlife - P Comment:</p>	

Common Name Scientific Name	Description	Picture
<p>June Grass</p> <p><i>Koeleria cristata</i></p> 	<p>Height - 2' to</p> <p>Sun - FS/PS</p> <p>Soil - X</p> <p>Color - Y</p> <p>Attraction: Bird -</p> <p>Humming Bird -</p> <p>Butterfly/Moth - Y</p> <p>General Wildlife - P</p> <p>Comment:</p>	
<p>Melic Grass</p> <p><i>Melica nitens</i></p> 	<p>Height - 2' to</p> <p>Sun - FS/PS</p> <p>Soil - M</p> <p>Color - Y</p> <p>Attraction: Bird -</p> <p>Humming Bird -</p> <p>Butterfly/Moth - Y</p> <p>General Wildlife - P</p> <p>Comment:</p>	
<p>Prairie Dropseed</p> <p><i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i></p> 	<p>Height - 2' to 3'</p> <p>Sun - FS</p> <p>Soil - A, D</p> <p>Color - Y</p> <p>Attraction: Bird -</p> <p>Humming Bird -</p> <p>Butterfly/Moth - Y</p> <p>General Wildlife -</p> <p>Comment: Blooms Aug-Oct</p>	
<p>River Oats</p> <p><i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i></p> 	<p>Height - 2' to 3'</p> <p>Sun - PS</p> <p>Soil - M</p> <p>Color -</p> <p>Attraction: Bird -</p> <p>Humming Bird -</p> <p>Butterfly/Moth - Y</p> <p>General Wildlife - P</p> <p>Comment:</p>	

<p>Common Name <i>Scientific Name</i></p>	<p>Description</p>	<p>Picture</p>
<p>Sedge, Fox, Brown Fox <i>Carex vulpinoidea</i></p> 	<p>Height - 2' to 3' Sun - FS/PS Soil - X Color - Y Attraction: Bird - Humming Bird - Butterfly/Moth - Y General Wildlife - P Comment:</p>	
<p>Sedge, Frank's <i>Carex frankii</i></p> 	<p>Height - 2' to 2.5' Sun - PS/FS Soil - M, W Color - Y Attraction: Bird - Humming Bird - Butterfly/Moth - Y General Wildlife - Comment:</p>	
<p>Sedge, Fringed <i>Carex crinita</i></p> 	<p>Height - 2' to 5' Sun - FS/PS Soil - M, W Color - Y Attraction: Bird - Humming Bird - Butterfly/Moth - Y General Wildlife - P Comment:</p>	
<p>Sedge, Hop-like <i>Carex lupuliformis</i></p> 	<p>Height - 2' to 3' Sun - FS/PSH Soil - M, W Color - Y Attraction: Bird - Humming Bird - Butterfly/Moth - Y General Wildlife - Comment:</p>	

Common Name <i>Scientific Name</i>	Description	Picture
<p>Sedge, Sallow <i>Carex lurida</i></p> 	<p>Height - 2' to 5' Sun - FS/PS Soil - M, W Color - Attraction: Bird - Humming Bird - Butterfly/Moth - Y General Wildlife - P Comment:</p>	
<p>Sideoats Gamma <i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i></p> 	<p>Height - 12" to 20" Sun - FS Soil - Wd Color - Attraction: Bird - Humming Bird - Butterfly/Moth - Y General Wildlife - Comment:</p>	
<p>Soft Rush, Common Rush <i>Juncus effusus</i></p> 	<p>Height - 1' to 1.5' Sun - FS Soil - W Color - Attraction: Bird - Humming Bird - Butterfly/Moth - Y General Wildlife - Comment: Blooms Jun - Aug</p>	
<p>Switchgrass <i>Panicum virgatum</i></p> 	<p>Height - 3' to 5' Sun - FS Soil - A Color - Y Attraction: Bird - Humming Bird - Butterfly/Moth - Y General Wildlife - P Comment:</p>	

Common Name Scientific Name	Description	Picture
<p> Virginia Wild Rye <i>Elymus virginicus</i> </p> 	<p> Height - 2' to 4' Sun - FS/PSH Soil - W Color - Attraction: Bird - Humming Bird - Butterfly/Moth - Y General Wildlife - P Comment: </p>	

References

See Chapters 2, 4, and 6 for listings of sources of data used.