

GREAT Native Grasses

FOR LOUISIANA LANDSCAPES



Clumping prairie grasses are the landscape architect's secret to a great design by providing structure, texture, and drama. Below you will find a dozen of our favorite species!

Did you know? Prairie grasses have roots so incredibly deep, they act like an "upside-down forest," with a huge amount of biomass you can't see underground. The roots range from 2 to 15 feet deep and anchor the soil for excellent erosion control. These deep roots also increase the quality and porosity of the soil, soaking up 3 times more rainwater than turf grass.

These grasses also provide food and habitat for birds, and are important host plants for the caterpillars of many butterflies and moths.

IN ORDER FROM SMALL TO TALL



Elliott's Lovegrass

Eragrostis elliottii, 1-3' tall and wide.
Delicate, wispy blooms; loves sandy soils.



Sideoats Grama

Bouteloua curtipendula, 1-3' tall. Petite oats hang from the side of the stem.



Inland Sea Oats

Chasmanthium latifolia, 3' tall. Tolerates shade.
Graceful movement and textures all year.



Gulf Coast Muhly

Muhlenbergia capillaris, 4' tall and wide.
Pink, airy sprays in the fall; Fine, rolled leaves.





Little Bluestem

Schizachyrium scoparium, 1-4' tall. Bluish leaves; Cute silvery eyelash plumes in fall.



Indiangrass

Sorghastrum nutans, 3-8' tall. Shorter leaves; Distinct yellow plumes turn reddish-brown.



Bushy Bluestem

Andropogon glomeratus, 2-5' tall. Blue-green foliage; Silvery cotton candy plumes in fall.



Eastern Gamagrass

Tripsacum dactyloides, 2-8' tall and wide. Pretty kernel stalks; Spreads with rhizomes.



Switchgrass

Panicum virgatum, Airy plumes up to 7' tall, leaves 3-4' tall. Good for open areas, colonizes.



Big Bluestem

Andropogon gerardii, "Turkey foot" plumes up to 9' tall. Bluish leaves 2' tall; Spreads rhizomes.



Sugarcane Plumegrass

Saccharum giganteum, 2-4' tall, plumes reaching 10'. Dramatic pink plumes turn fluffy.



River Cane/American Bamboo

Arundinaria gigantea, 3-25' tall, colonizes by rhizomes. Settlers decimated the historic populations.

