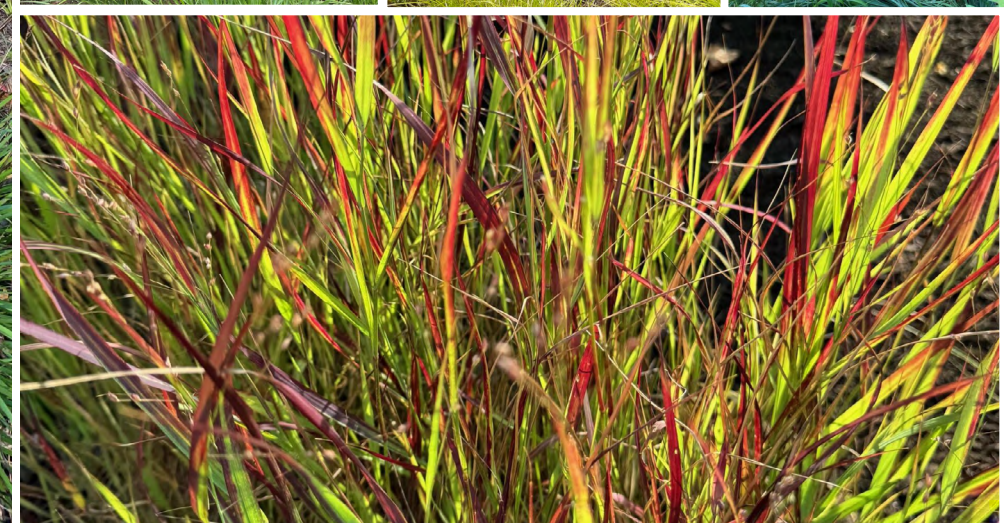


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Ornamental Grasses for Tennessee Landscapes



Ornamental Grasses for Tennessee Landscapes

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Ornamental grasses and grass-like plants can play a significant role in home landscapes. They offer a wide range of functional applications, opportunities for aesthetic design and benefits for both nature and gardeners. While not technically in the Poaceae (grass) family, grass-like plants, including sedge, sweet flag and rush, fulfill many of the same roles. In some instances, these plants may be better adapted to niche environments such as deep shade or poor-draining soils. By exploring the similarities and differences of ornamental grass and grass-like plants, gardeners can make wise decisions on their use in landscapes.

Function

Unlike turfgrass species, which are primarily managed as stabilizing ground covers for lawns and athletic fields, ornamental grasses offer diverse applications in a home landscape. A wisely placed specimen plant can draw attention to a specific area, highlight surrounding plants or make a statement all its own. Low-growing ornamental grasses with spreading habits or small-stature clumping grasses planted in mass can serve as effective low-traffic groundcovers. When grouped, medium-sized grasses can create movement and softness while taller grasses can act as a seasonal screen or contribute to a more extensive mixed living screen.

Design

When used without purpose or vision, ornamental grasses can leave a negative impression. A parking lot island with a haphazard mix of grasses or an accent grass without a focal point feels like an afterthought. This discourages gardeners from thoughtfully incorporating ornamental grasses into their landscape. Ornamental grasses have the potential to enhance the design in many ways. Gardeners are typically drawn to attributes such as foliage texture, color and variegation. Yet, showy seed heads, fall color transformations and the potential for winter interest are also compelling features that can influence the selection and placement of ornamental grasses. Plant size and growth habit also have weight in determining the look and feel of a landscape. Naturalistic plantings can be mimicked by creating large swaths interspersed with herbaceous plants and other grasses while formal designs may utilize a balanced arrangement of accent grasses or low-growing groundcover grasses for a managed feel. Choosing and placing ornamental grasses with intention can create a garden that excites and offers new interest each season.

Benefits

Ornamental grasses offer remarkable versatility with selections to meet nearly any combination of light needs, moisture requirements and soil types. Once established, their resilience to extreme conditions and low-maintenance nature, requiring minimal fertilization and pruning, make them ideal for home gardeners seeking beauty and ease of care.

The benefits of ornamental grasses extend to the surrounding ecosystem as well. Their root systems stabilize soil, combat erosion, remediate pollutants and enhance the soil's ability to absorb and retain water. Their vegetation slows water movement across the soil surface, preventing erosion and protecting waterways from sediment and pollutants, and their high biomass production contributes to soil organic matter over time. Many ornamental grasses provide essential food and cover for wildlife, and native ornamental grasses play a vital role in ecosystem restoration efforts.

Maintenance

Annual pruning is essential for maintaining the health and appearance of many ornamental grasses. Cutting foliage back annually helps maintain a tidy plant appearance and allows for a clearer view of the plant's fresh foliage and seed head display. Annual pruning should be done in late winter to early spring just before new growth begins to emerge. One of the biggest attributes of ornamental grasses is their contribution to the winter landscape. Leaving their seed heads and foliage, whether evergreen or deciduous, intact through the colder months, adds valuable texture, movement and visual interest to the winter garden.

In addition to annual pruning, periodic division is important for the longevity and vigor of certain ornamental grasses. Grasses such as fountain grass, maiden grass and pampas grass often develop dead centers as they age with new growth forming around the outer edges. If left unchecked, the massive clumps can become very difficult to dig and divide. Regular division rejuvenates the plant and enhances its structural appeal within the landscape. Plan to divide clumps every three to five years, depending on the plant's growth rate and overall vigor.

Chart Notes

This plant chart is designed with plant selection and easy shopping in mind. Choosing the best ornamental grass for a specific garden site requires consideration of plant size, light needs, form, foliage, bloom and longevity in the garden, and identifying species and finding specific cultivars can be a challenge. This chart enables Tennessee gardeners to self-navigate through numerous ornamental grass options and various plant qualities to find an ornamental grass that satisfies the needs of the site and the gardener.

The chart is arranged alphabetically by **Scientific Name** but includes a **Common Name** column for easy reference. **The P/A column** identifies the plant as a perennial or annual. Perennial grasses return year after year while those denoted as annual grasses either complete their life cycle in one growing season or are not hardy through winter. All plants in the list are appropriate for growing zones found in Tennessee (8a-6a), and specific hardiness issues are mentioned in the key characteristics if applicable.

The average height (H) and width (W) in feet (') are listed in the **Size** column with the understanding that size varies with cultivar. This column describes the average height of the primary foliage and does not include the additional height that plumes and seed heads could contribute. Light needs are indicated in the **Light** column with symbols representing Sun, Part Sun, and Shade.

- Sun sites receive six or more hours of direct light.
- Part Sun sites receive at least four hours of direct light or up to six hours of direct morning light.
- Shade sites receive less than four hours of direct, filtered or dappled light.

An intentional effort was made to include plant cultivars available at local garden centers and nurseries. The **Cultivars and Trade Names** column is not all-inclusive but will provide a starting point for selections that are reliable favorites throughout the state. For simplicity, includes cultivar names in single quotations as well as trade names which may carry Registered or Trademark status.

The **Key Characteristics** column includes information on:

- Growth habit and flower/seed head structure
- Description of foliage and attributes
- Preferred growing site conditions
- Uses in the landscape, wildlife support and notes on cautionary use and invasive status in Tennessee

Several grasses and grass-like plants in the list have aggressive spreading characteristics. The term aggressive does not mean invasive. Aggressive plants may be native or non-native and can still have value when used appropriately in landscapes. Invasive plants are human-introduced non-natives that cause harm to the environment, economy or humans. The Tennessee Invasive Plant Council (TNIPC) has identified plants that are established or emerging threats to both natural and disturbed sites in Tennessee. It is recommended that these plants not be considered for use. Many sterile cultivars, which produce little to no viable seed (ex: *Miscanthus sinensis* 'Little Kitten'), are widely available on the market. Caution should still be used with these plants as some may produce viable seeds when cross-pollinated with another cultivar of the same species. Plants with extremely aggressive growth habits and plants identified as invasive in Tennessee are noted at the bottom of the chart under the heading **Not Recommended for Use in TN Landscapes**.

Gardeners interested in introducing native options into the landscape or natural areas should look for the **Tri-Star emblem**. This symbol indicates plants that are native to Tennessee. Additional notes on plants native to North America outside of Tennessee are noted in the last bullet of the Key Characteristics column.

Ornamental Grasses for Tennessee Landscapes

Scientific Name	Common Name	P/A	Size	Light	Cultivars and Trade Names	Key Characteristics
<i>Acorus gramineus</i>	Sweet Flag	P	.5-1' H .5-1' W		'Ogon' 'Minimus Aureus' 'Variegatus'	- Low-growing clumps with wide V habit that spreads via rhizome - Evergreen foliage is flat and wide and has a glossy sheen - Prefers wet sites but grows well in average draining soil - Useful as a groundcover or edging, tolerates standing water
<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	Big Blue Stem	P	4-6' H 2-3' W	 	'Blackhawks' 'Red October' 'Holy Smoke'	- Clumping upright habit with non-showy blooms in summer - Warm-season grass, blue-green foliage with russet fall color - Tolerates a wide range of soil types and moisture levels, can become floppy in part sun or rich soils - Long-lived, excellent for naturalizing and supporting wildlife
<i>Andropogon virginicus</i>	Broomsedge	P	3-6' H 1-2' W			- Clumping upright habit with non-showy blooms in late summer - Warm-season grass, medium texture foliage, tan color in fall - Prefers lean soil, heavy re-seeder - Useful in natural areas, but not suggested for home landscapes
<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>	Side Oats Grama	P	1-2' H 1' W			- Upright clumping habit, purple-red flower in summer - Oat-like seeds hang from only one side - Warm-season grass, narrow sword-like foliage on upright stems - Adaptable to a range of soil types, average to dry moisture - Use in meadows, naturalized areas or mass plantings
<i>Bouteloua dactyloides</i>	Buffalo Grass	P	.5-1' H .5-1' W			- Low growing dense clumping habit, spreads slowly with stolons - Warm-season grass with fine, curly blue-green leaves - Often confused with Bermudagrass - Can mow to 2", use as a no-traffic lawn alternative, not widely used, North American Native
<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>	Blue Grama Grass	P	1-1.5' H 1-1.5' W		'Blonde Ambition'	- Upright dense clumping habit, showy small seed heads in summer - Warm-season grass with fine-textured green to blue-gray foliage - Tolerant of poor dry soil, drought tolerant - Can mow to 2", use as a no-traffic lawn alternative, not widely used, North American Native, fall color brown-orange-red



Tennessee Native



Full Sun



Part Sun / Part Shade



Full Shade

Ornamental Grasses for Tennessee Landscapes

Scientific Name	Common Name	P/A	Size	Light	Cultivars and Trade Names	Key Characteristics
<i>Calamagrostis x acutiflora</i>	Feather Reed Grass	P	3-5' H 1-2' W	 	'Karl Foerster'	- Upright narrow clumping habit, loose feathery plumes - Cool-season grass with fine-textured wiry foliage - Tolerant of wet sites, heavy clay, and poor soil conditions - Deer resistant, useful in containers and tight spaces - Performs best in cooler parts of the state
<i>Carex appalachica</i> 	Appalachian Sedge	P	.5'-1' H 1' W	 		- Short clumping weeping habit - Fine textured foliage - Ideal for dry shade sites under trees, slow-growing - Plant in mass as a groundcover (no foot traffic)
<i>Carex buchananii</i>	Leatherleaf Sedge	P	1-2' H 1-2' W	 	'Red Rooster'	- Clumping arching habit - Fine textured bronze to copper foliage - Prefers well-draining soils - Impressive in mass or as an accent, good in containers also
<i>Carex cherokeensis</i> 	Cherokee Sedge	P	1-2' H 1-2' W	  		- Clumping arching habit: clump increases in size over time - Semi-evergreen, narrow grass-like foliage - Prefers moist/wet sites, adaptable to average soil moisture - Use as a groundcover in mass, as front edging or near water
<i>Carex morrowii</i>	Japanese Sedge	P	1-1.5' H 1-1.5' W	 	'Ice Dance' 'Silk Tassel' 'Silver Sceptre'	- Low growing dense mounding habit - Evergreen, flat, thick leaves in various colors/variegation - Prefers moist/wet sites, drought tolerant once established - Use as a groundcover, borders, accents, containers
<i>Carex oshimensis</i>	Japanese Sedge	P	.5-1' H 1-1.5' W	 	'Evergold' 'Everillo' 'Everest'	- Low growing dense mounding habit - Semi-evergreen, flat, narrow foliage in various colors - Thrives in moist soil, best color in the shade, spreads slowly - Use as a groundcover, borders, accents, containers

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Scientific Name	Common Name	P/A	Size	Light	Cultivars and Trade Names	Key Characteristics
<i>Carex pensylvanica</i> 	Pennsylvania Sedge	P	.5-1' H .5-1' W	 		- Low growing loose creeping habit - Semi-evergreen, finest textured foliage - Thrives in moist to wet sites - Zero traffic turf alternative for shade, mow 1/year
<i>Carex rosea</i> 	Rosey Sedge	P	.5-1' H .5-1' W	 		- Dense clumping growth habit - Cool season grass, dainty cascading deep green foliage - Will tolerate full shade, but prefers some dappled sunlight - Tolerates a variety of soil conditions, drought and deer tolerant - Excellent for shade gardens, groundcovers, borders
<i>Carex testacea</i>	New Zealand Hair Sedge	P	1.5-2' H 1.5-2' W	 	'Prairie Fire'	- Low growing clump forming habit - Bronze-green leaves turn orange in fall - Requires well-drained soil - Use in rock gardens, containers, accents
<i>Cenchrus alopecuroides</i> (<i>Pennisetum alopecuroides</i>)	Fountaingrass	P	2-4' H 2-4' W		'Hameln' 'Little Bunny' 'Red Head' 'Moudry'	- Clumping erect habit, showy bottlebrush plumes in summer - Warm-season, flat arching foliage - Prefers moist well-drained soil - Use in mass or as an accent, will require division, some cultivars are heavy reseeder
<i>Cenchrus americanus</i> (<i>Pennisetum glaucum</i>)	Ornamental Millet	A	2-6' H 2-3' W		'Copper Prince' 'Purple Baron' 'Purple Majesty'	- Clumping erect habit, showy bottlebrush plumes in summer - Warm-season grass with broad, flat, arching foliage - Prefers moist well-drained soil - Use in containers or as an accent, bury root crown a few inches deep for denser growth
<i>Cenchrus orientalis</i> (<i>Pennisetum orientale</i>)	Oriental Fountain Grass	P	2-5' H 2-3' W	 	'Karley Rose'	- Sprawling mounding habit, showy plumes in summer - Warm season, foliage is flat and arching - Prefers moist, well-drained soil, drought-tolerant - Can be floppy, use in mass plantings



Tennessee Native



Full Sun



Part Sun / Part Shade



Full Shade

Ornamental Grasses for Tennessee Landscapes

Scientific Name	Common Name	P/A	Size	Light	Cultivars and Trade Names	Key Characteristics
<i>Cenchrus purpureus</i> (<i>Pennisetum purpureum</i>)	Purple Fountain Grass	A	3-5' H 3-5' W	 	Vertigo 'Prince' 'Princess Caroline' First Knight	- Clumping erect habit - Warm-season grass with broad, arching, purple foliage - Moist well-drained soil, use as a focal point in the landscape - May survive winter in warmer zones and protected areas
<i>Cenchrus setaceus</i> (<i>Pennisetum setaceum</i>)	Purple Fountain Grass	A	3-5' H 2-4' W		'Fireworks' 'Rubrum'	- Clumping erect habit, showy purple plumes in summer - Warm season, flat foliage in various colors/variegation - Moist well-drained soil, drought tolerant - Use as accent and in containers
<i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i> 	River Oats	P	2-4' H 1-2.5' W	  	'River Mist'	- Upright, airy habit, broad bamboo-like leaves - Oat-like seed heads hang pendulously above the foliage, most impressive if positioned to catch light - Aggressive in moist or rich soil, mimicking its natural growing conditions, better behaved and slow to spread in dry, lean soils - Spread by rhizomes and self-sowing can become weedy in traditional garden beds, allow to neutralize where space and site allows
<i>Cortaderia selloana</i>	Pampas Grass	P	4-12' H 4-6' W	 	'Pumila' 'Blue Bayou'	- Upright dense clumping habit, large plumes held high above foliage - Warm-season grass, broad flat foliage - Drought tolerant, clump enlarges over time - Large size makes it useful as a seasonal screen or accent
<i>Cymbopogon citratus</i>	Lemon Grass	A	2-4' H 2-3' W	 		- Upright clumping habit - Foliage is yellow-green, flat and arching - Drought tolerant - Culinary and herbal use



Tennessee Native



Full Sun



Part Sun / Part Shade



Full Shade

Ornamental Grasses for Tennessee Landscapes

Scientific Name	Common Name	P/A	Size	Light	Cultivars and Trade Names	Key Characteristics
<i>Cyperus spp.</i>	Papyrus, Umbrella Plant	A	1-8' H 1-4' W	 	King Tut Prince Tut Baby Tut	- Erect clumping habit, strong stems emerge in narrow V-shape - Seed heads atop stems are showy, reminiscent of a duster - Prefer moist soil, water's edge and submersion - Annual, best used in containers and accents
<i>Equisetum hyemale</i> 	Horsetail Reed Grass	P	2-3' H spreads	  		- Erect spreading colonies, non-flowering - Evergreen, reed-like jointed stalks - Moist soils and wetland habitats - Due to it's extremely aggressive nature, consider planting in containers instead of in the ground
<i>Eragrostis elliottii</i>	Lovegrass	P	2-3' H 2-3' W		'Wind Dancer'	- Upright clumping habit, fluffy white panicles in summer - Blue-green fine-textured foliage - Drought tolerant, prefers drier sites - Native to Southeast North America
<i>Eragrostis spectabilis</i> 	Purple Lovegrass	P	.5-1' H 1' W	 		- Small clumping habit, airy panicle purple seed heads - Green flat leaf with copper color in fall - Drought tolerant, prefers drier sites - Plant in mass as a no-traffic ground cover alternative
<i>Erianthus alopecuroides</i> (<i>Saccharum alopecuroides</i>) 	Silver Plume Grass, Fairy Wands	P	5-6' H 3' W			- Upright open clumping habit, feathery rosy copper plumes in fall - Coarse flat foliage with dominant mid-rib - Adaptable to a wide range of soil and moisture conditions - Not widely cultivated, valuable for wildlife and natural areas
<i>Fargesia rufa</i>	Hardy Bamboo	P	6-10' H 6-10' W		'Green Panda'	- Upright vase-shaped arching stems, clumping, not running - Evergreen to semi-evergreen - Prefers moist well-drained soil - Suitable for landscape and containers, difficult to source plants

Ornamental Grasses for Tennessee Landscapes

Scientific Name	Common Name	P/A	Size	Light	Cultivars and Trade Names	Key Characteristics
<i>Festuca glauca</i>	Blue Fescue	P	.5-1.5' H .5-1.5' W		'Elijah Blue' 'Beyond Blue'	- Low growing dense clumping habit - Cool-season, semi-evergreen blue-green foliage - Requires good drainage, longer lived in cooler zones of TN - Excellent planted in mass, as contrast, or containers
<i>Hakonechloa macra</i>	Japanese Forest Grass	P	1-2' H 2' W		'Aureola' 'All Gold' 'Albostriata'	- Dense mounding habit, color, and variegation options, fall color - Narrow bamboo-like foliage on cascading stems - Moist well-drained soil, spreads but slow-growing - Use as accent or in mass as a zero traffic groundcover
<i>Helictotrichon sempervirens</i>	Blue Oat Grass	P	2-3' H 1.5' W			- Dense arching clumping habit, fine textured blue foliage - Hanging oat-like seed head in winter - Prefers dry soil conditions - Resembles blue fescue, use in mass, as accent, or in containers
<i>Isolepis cernua</i>	Fiber Optic Grass	A	.5-1' H 1-2' W			- Small loose clumping habit - Tight blooms held on top of extremely fine textured foliage resembling fiber optics - Prefers moist to wet conditions and can tolerate shallow submersion - Excellent for containers, bog gardens, and decorative pond edges
<i>Juncus effusus</i> 	Soft Rush	P	1-1.5' H spreads		'Big Twister' 'Spiralis'	- Upright habit, spreading, no significant bloom - Evergreen foliage is cylindrical and spikey - Thrives in wet sites, tolerant of average moisture - Use in consistently moist garden sites, containers or water's edge
<i>Juncus inflexus</i>	Hard Rush	P	1-3' H spreads		'Blue Arrows'	- Upright habit, spreading - Evergreen foliage is cylindrical and spikey - Thrives in wet sites, tolerant of average moisture - Use in consistently moist garden sites, containers or water's edge

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Scientific Name	Common Name	P/A	Size	Light	Cultivars and Trade Names	Key Characteristics
<i>Juncus tenuis</i> 	Wire Grass	P	1-2' H spreads	 	'Blue Dart'	- Low growing habit, spreading by rhizome and reseeding - Foliage turns brown in winter, cut back yearly to renew growth - Performs well in heavy soils, tolerates average to wet soils - Use in consistently moist garden sites, containers or water's edge
<i>Liriope muscari</i>	Monkey Grass, Lilyturf	P	1-1.5' H 1-1.5' W	  	'Pee Dee Ingot' 'Big Blue' 'Silvery Sunproof' 'Variegata'	- Low growing dense clumping habit, purple spike bloom in summer - Evergreen grass-like foliage - Adaptable to soil conditions - Useful as a border or groundcover
<i>Luzula sylvatica</i>	Wood Rush	P	1-2' H 1-2' W	 	'Aurea' 'Marginata'	- Loose clumping habit, small bloom in summer - Evergreen, broad, glossy foliage - Adaptable to a wide range of soil types and conditions - Useful as a border or tall groundcover
<i>Muhlenbergia capillaris</i> 	Pink Muhly Grass	P	1.5-3' H 1.5-3' W	 	'White cloud'	- Upright clumping airy habit, pink puffy panicles in late summer/fall - Warm-season, fine textured foliage, winter interest - Tolerant of poor soil and drought once established - Showy seed heads are most impressive if positioned to catch light - The straight species <i>M. capillaris</i>, which has pink inflorescence is the most common in the trade and carries no cultivar name
<i>Muhlenbergia reverchonii</i>	Ruby Muhly Grass	P	2-3' H 1.5-2' W		Undaunted	- Small clump forming habit - Fine textured foliage with airy dark pink flower spikes in late summer - Prefers dry sites and tolerates drought once established, native to Southwest U.S.

Ornamental Grasses for Tennessee Landscapes

Scientific Name	Common Name	P/A	Size	Light	Cultivars and Trade Names	Key Characteristics
<i>Muhlenbergia x.</i>	Muhly Grass	P	2-5' H 2-3' W	 	'Pink Flamingo'	- Upright clumping airy habit, pink puffy panicles in late summer/fall - Warm-season, fine textured foliage, winter interest - Tolerant of poor soil and drought once established - Showy seed heads are most impressive if positioned to catch light 'Pink Flamingo' is a naturally occurring hybrid between <i>M. capillaris</i> and <i>M. linheimeri</i>
<i>Nassella tenuissima</i>	Mexican Feather Grass	P	1-1.5' H 1-1.5' W	 		- Low growing mounding arching habit, feathery spiked seedheads - Fine textured wispy foliage, short-lived perennial but also re-seeds - Prefers average to dry sites, drought-tolerant - Native to Southwest U.S.
<i>Ophiopogon japonicas</i>	Mondo Grass		.25' H .25-1' W	 	'Gyoku-ryu' 'Variegatus'	- Low arching clumping habit, spreads underground, wide grass-like foliage - Prefers rich fertile moist well-drained soil <i>O. planiscapus</i> 'Nigrescens' is a dark foliage option commonly called Black Mondo grass - Use in mass for coverage, edging
<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	Switchgrass	P	3-6' H 2-3' W		'Heavy Metal' 'Northwind' 'Blood Brothers' 'Shenandoah' 'Cape Breeze' 'Totem Pole' 'Niagara' 'October Sky'	- Tall, upright clumping habit, airy open panicles in summer - Warm-season, medium texture foliage - Tolerant of a wide variety of soil and moisture conditions - Lean dry soil, and full sun result in sturdy, upright growth - Valuable to wildlife, good fall color and winter interest - Use in mass or as an accent
<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i> (<i>Andropogon scoparius</i>) 	Little Blue Stem	P	2-4' H 1-2' W	 	'Prairie Blues' 'Blaze' 'The Blues' 'Standing Ovation' 'Twilight Zone'	- Narrow upright clumping habit, feathery seed heads in fall - Narrow-bladed foliage, bluish in summer, copper-orange in fall - Prefers average to dry soil, can flop in moist rich soils, excellent heat and drought tolerance - Impressive planted in mass, larval host plant for numerous species

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Scientific Name	Common Name	P/A	Size	Light	Cultivars and Trade Names	Key Characteristics
<i>Sisyrinchium angustifolium</i>	Blue-eyed Grass	P	.5-1' H 1' W			- Narrow upright clumping habit, feathery seed heads in fall - Narrow-bladed foliage, bluish in summer, copper-orange in fall - Prefers average to dry soil, can flop in moist rich soils, excellent heat and drought tolerance - Impressive planted in mass, larval host plant for numerous species
<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i> 	Indiangrass	P	4-7' H 1-2' W	 	'Indian Steel' 'St. Louis'	- Tall upright clumping habit, showy seed head in fall - Narrow, flat foliage - Prefers average to dry conditions and lean soils - Excellent for wildlife, erosion control and restoration
<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i> 	Prairie Dropseed	P	2-3' H 2-3' W	 	'Tara'	- Low clumping habit, airy panicles smell popcorn-like - Green glossy foliage in summer, orange copper in fall - Slow to establish, prefers dry, rocky soil but adaptable - Useful for erosion control, restoration, and wildlife
<i>Typha latifolia</i>	Common Cat-Tail	P	3-6' H spreads	 		- Upright spreading habit, the flower is the iconic 'cattail' - Foliage is flat, broad, and dark green, - Prefers moist conditions and submersion <i>T. minima</i>, aka miniature cat-tail, only 1.5-2' in height - Aggressive spreader, utilize containers and use with caution



Tennessee Native



Full Sun



Part Sun / Part Shade



Full Shade

Not recommended for use in TN Landscapes

Scientific Name	Common Name	P/A	Size	Light	Cultivars and Trade Names	Key Characteristics
<i>Arundo donax</i>	Giant Reed	P	10-20' H spreads	 	'Peppermint Stick' 'Variegata'	Listed as an Emerging threat to natural areas by the TN Invasive Plant Council
<i>Leymus arenarius</i>	Blue Lyme Grass	P	2-3' H spreads	 	'Blue Dune'	Spreads very aggressively by rhizomes
<i>Liriope spicata</i>	Monkey Grass, Creeping Liriope	P	.5-1.5' H spreads	  		Listed as an emerging threat in natural areas by the TN Invasive Plant Council
<i>Miscanthus sinensis</i>	Maiden Grass	P	3-6' H 2-3' W reseeds	 	'Morning Light' 'Adagio' 'Little Kitten'	- Listed as an established threat in natural areas by the TN Invasive Plant Council - Morning Light, Adagio, Kitten produce, very little viable seed reducing the risk of invasiveness, do not plant more than one cultivar as they could cross pollinate and produce viable seed. 'Scout,' 'Bandwidth,' and 'My Fair Maiden' are newer trademarked cultivars that are said to be truly sterile, producing no viable seed, and could be a better option.
<i>Phalaris spp.</i>	Ribbon Grass	P	2-4' H spreads		'Picta'	- Spreads very aggressively by rhizomes - Included in the TN Invasive Plant Council list of invasive plants whose aggressive behavior pose a threat in disturbed habitats such as landscapes and public spaces
<i>Phyllostachys spp.</i>	Golden Bamboo, Black Bamboo, and others	P	15-30' H spreads			<i>P. aurea</i> is listed as an emerging threat in natural areas by the TN Invasive Plant Council
<i>Pleiolblastus spp.</i>	Dwarf, Golden Stripped, and White Stripped Bamboo	P	1-3' H spreads	  		Spreads very aggressively by rhizomes, use with caution



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