

NATIVES SPECIES COMPARISON CHART

Native Grass	Season	USDA Zone	Seeding Rate (PLS) - Mono	Ave. Seeding Rate (PLS) - Mix	Seeding Depth	Germination Time	Growth Habit	Growing Height	Shade Tolerance	Drought Tolerance	Flood Tolerance	NPK Fertilizer Requirement	Salinity Tolerance	Forage Yield	Forage Palatability	Grazing Tolerance	Nesting Bird Value	Identification Trait(s)	Bloom Period
Big Bluestem	Warm	3	10-12 lbs	5-8 lbs	1/2"	14-21 days	Sod-forming	6'-8'	Poor - Mod	Fair	Fair - Good	Mod	High 4.5-7.5	High	Mod	Fair - Good	Good	Purple stem with fine hairs - seedhead looks like a turkey's foot	Aug-Sept
Little Bluestem	Warm	3	7-8 lbs	3-5 lbs	1/2"	21-28 days	Bunch	Up to 5'; shorter in dry areas	Poor	Fair - Good	Fair	Mod	Mod 5.5-6.5	Low	Mod	Fair	Fair	Similar to Big Bluestem but shorter - purple stem with fine hairs - single spike clusters - stem turns pink in fall	July-Sept
Blue Grama	Warm	3	8-10 lbs	3-5 lbs	1/2"	7-10 days	Bunch	Up to 18-20"	Poor - Mod	Good	Poor	Mod	Mod 5.0-7.5	Low	Mod only for pasture	Good	Poor	Fine-leaved with blue-green seedheads suspended horizontally	June-Aug
Sideoats Grama	Warm	3	10-12 lbs	4-6 lbs	1/2"	14-21 days	Sod-forming	Up to 30"; some-times taller	Poor-Mod	Fair-Good	Fair	Low	Mod	Mod	Mod	Good	Good	Skinny panicle head 4-16"; upside down ryegrass heads	June-July
Buffalo grass	Warm	4	40-60 lbs	10-15 lbs	1/2"	14-21 days	Sod-forming	5-6"; double when undisturbed	Poor	Good	Fair-Good	Low	Mod	Low	High	Good	Poor	Grey-green/bluegreen in color with curly leaves & slender stems	July-Aug
Canada Wildrye	Cool	3	10-12 lbs	2-3 lbs	1/2"	7-21 days	Bunch	Up to 5'; normally 24-48"	Mod	Fair	Fair	Mod	Mod	Mod	Mod only for pasture	Fair	Fair	Heads similar to rye, but curved and sweeping	Mar-June
Indian grass	Warm	3	10-12 lbs	5-8 lbs	1/2"	21-28 days	Sod-forming	Up to 6'	Poor - Mod	Poor	Fair	Mod	Mod 5.0-8.0	High	Mod	Fair	Good	Heads similar to tall fescue	Aug-Sept
Switch grass	Warm	3	5-8 lbs	2-3 lbs	1/2"	21-28 days	Sod-forming	Up to 6'	Poor	Fair	Good	Mod	High 4.5-7.5	High	Mod	Fair	Good	Clump-forming with open, lacy sprays and many curly leaves	Aug-Sept
Western Wheatgrass	Cool	3	8-10 lbs	2-5 lbs	1/2"	21-28 days	Sod-forming	Up to 36-40"	Poor	Good	Good	Mod	High	Mod	High	Good	Poor	Heads look similar to ryegrass	Spring