

2010 Comparison Chart for Ornamental Grasses - Bluestem Nursery www.bluestem.ca

This info is derived from growing the grasses in our Zone 4/5 nursery. We have sandy-loam soil, our summers are hot and dry and we irrigate to mimic the ideal growing conditions.

Grasses, Sedges, Rushes	Common Name	Height cm / in	Bloom Height	Bloom Time	Foliage Color/Blade Width	Ideal Growing Conditions	Season	H ₂ O Req*	Roots	Zone
<i>Achnatherum calamagrostis</i>	Silver spear grass	50-70 20-28"	80-100 24-36"	June-July	green narrow	sun/part shade moist, fertile well drained soil	cool	2	clump	5**
<i>Achnatherum hymenoides</i>	Indian ricegrass	45-60 18-24"	60-75 24-30"	early spring	green narrow	sun/part shade moist, fertile well drained soil	cool	1	clump	3
<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> 'Aureovariegatus'	Golden foxtail grass	30-40 12-16"	60 24"	May-June	yel / green narrow	full sun/light shade moist fertile soil	cool	3	sod- forming^	4
<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	Big bluestem	100-200 40-80"	150-250 60-100"	Aug-Sept	blue-green medium	full sun well drained soil	warm	2	sod- forming^	4**
<i>Andropogon gerardii</i> 'Bison'	Bison big bluestem	120-150 48-60"	135-165 55-65"	late July- Aug	green narrow	full sun well drained soil	warm	2	sod- forming^	4**
<i>Andropogon gerardii</i> 'New Wave'	New Wave big bluestem	75-105 30-42"	135-165 55-65"	Aug-Sept	green, red-tinged narrow	full sun well drained soil	warm	2	sod- forming^	4**
<i>Arrhenatherum bulbosum</i> 'Variegatum'	Striped bulbous oat grass	30-35 12-14"	50 20"	Aug-Sept	white/green medium	light to full shade moist, well drained soil	cool	3	clump	4
<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>	Side oats grama	40-80 16-32"	60-100 24-40"	June-Aug	light green medium	full sun soil - adaptable	warm	1	sod- forming^	3
<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>	Blue grama	30-40 12-16"	40-50 16-20"	June-Aug	grey-green narrow	full sun sandy loam soil	warm	1	clump	3
<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i> 'Bad River'	Blue grama	30-40 12-16"	35-45 14-18"	June-Aug	lt green narrow	full sun, clay to sandy loam soil	warm	1	clump	2-3
<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i> 'Lovington'	Blue grama	40-50 16-20"	50-60 20-24"	June-Aug	lt green narrow	full sun, clay to sandy loam soil	warm	1	clump	4
<i>Buchloe dactyloides</i>	Buffalo grass	10-15 4-6"	5-15 2-6"	July-Aug (sparse)	grey-green narrow	full sun soil - well drained, clay	warm	1	moderate spreader	4
<i>Calamagrostis x acut.</i> 'Avalanche'	Variegated reed grass	50-75 20-30"	110 50"	June-July	green/white medium	full sun/part sun soil - adaptable	cool	2	clump	3