

Grasses for Wildlife

Botanical Name	Common Name	Wildlife Use	Height, Soil Type, Comments
<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	big bluestem	whitetail deer & bison; skipper butterflies; songbirds, bobwhite quail, prairie chicken, small mammals	5-7'; wet to mesic soils
<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>	blue grama	skipper butterflies, antelope	1-2'; dry sites
<i>Carex</i> species	many sedges: esp. hairy, tussock	butterfly larval food	6"-4', shade; wet and mist sites
<i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i>	wood or river oats	birds, rodents and skipper butterflies	2-4'; shade; may winter kill, but self-seeds
<i>Deschampsia caespitosa</i>	tufted hairgrass	several butterflies, deer, elk, rabbits, host to at least 40 species of Lepidopteran insects worldwide	2-4'; shade tolerance
<i>Leersia oryzoides</i>	rice cutgrass	water fowl and many birds feed on seed cover for many birds lakeshores	3-4'; wet or muddy soils, soil stabilization
<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	switchgrass	food, nesting and cover for pheasants, quail, rabbits, turkeys, doves and song birds	3-6'; aggressive, self-seeds, wide soil tolerance
<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	Little bluestem	songbirds, upland game birds, skipper butterflies	2-4'; dry to mesic sites
<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	Indian grass	white-tailed deer; bobwhite quail, skipper butterflies, birds and small mammals	3-6'; mesic sites
<i>Spartina pectinata</i>	prairie cordgrass	cover and habitat for birds and small mammals	4-7'; rhizomes stabilize wet sites
<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>	prairie dropseed	Abundant seed for songbirds	3-4'; mesic to dry sites