



New England Native Grasses of Short to Medium Stature

John Campanelli (john.campanelli@uconn.edu), Dawn Smith and Julia Kuzovkina (jkuzovkina@uconn.edu)

DOT Manual - Effective Establishment of Native Grasses on Roadsides in New England:

http://cag.uconn.edu/plsc/plsc/People/Faculty/Kuzovkina_13_553212770.pdf



The list contains the eco-regional list of grasses suitable for roadside plantings, meadows, and residential gardens.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Height	Fertility Requirement	Active Growth Period	Bloom Time	Root Depth (minimum)	Growth Form	Growth Rate	Shade Tolerance	Drought Tolerance	Salinity Tolerance	Soil pH	Lifespan
Winter bentgrass	<i>Agrostis hyemalis</i>	Up to 3.5'	Medium	Spring, summer, fall	Mid-spring	8"	Bunch	Moderate	Intermediate	Low	Medium	5.0-7.5	Short
Autumn bentgrass	<i>Agrostis perennans</i>	Up to 3 1/2'	Medium	Spring, summer, fall	Midsummer	8"	Bunch	Moderate	Intermediate	Low	None	5.5-7.5	Short

Common Name	Scientific Name	Height	Fertility Requirement	Active Growth Period	Bloom Time	Root Depth (minimum)	Growth Form	Growth Rate	Shade Tolerance	Drought Tolerance	Salinity Tolerance	Soil pH	Lifespan
Rough bentgrass	<i>Agrostis scabra</i>	Up to 3'	Low	Spring	June-Nov	12"	Bunch	Moderate	Intolerant	Low	Low	6.0-8.0	Moderate
Big bluestem	<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	5'-7'	Low	Summer	Aug-Oct	20"	Bunch	Moderate	Intolerant	High	Medium	6.0-7.5	Long
Broomsedge bluestem	<i>Andropogon virginicus</i>	1 1/2'-3'		Summer	Late spring	14"	Bunch	Slow	Intolerant	High	Low	4.9-7.0	Moderate
Fringed brome	<i>Bromus ciliatus</i>	Up to 4'	Low	Spring, summer	Spring	16"	Bunch	Moderate	Tolerant	Low	Low	5.5-7.5	Long
Tufted hair-sedge	<i>Bulbostylis capillaris</i>	Up to 1'	Low		June-Aug			Intermediate	High				
Canada bluejoint	<i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i>	Up to 5'	Medium	Spring	June-Aug	16"	Rhizomatous	Moderate	Intolerant	Low	None	4.5-8.0	Long
Blunt broom sedge	<i>Carex scoparia</i>	8"-36"	Medium	Spring, summer	July-Aug	8"	Bunch	Moderate	Tolerant	None	Low	4.6-6.9	Long
Tussock sedge	<i>Carex stricta</i>	Up to 3'	Medium	Spring	May-June	18"	Bunch	Moderate	Tolerant	Low	None	3.5-7.0	Long
Swan's sedge	<i>Carex swanii</i>	1'-3'			May-June		Rhizomatous		Intermediate	Low			
Common fox sedge	<i>Carex vulpinoidea</i>	Up to 3'	Medium	Spring	June-Aug	16"	Bunch	Moderate	Intermediate	Low	None	6.8-8.9	Long
Redtop panicgrass	<i>Coleataenia longifolia ssp rigidulum</i>	Up to 4'	Low	Summer	Aug-Oct	6"	Bunch	Moderate	Intolerant	Low	Low	5.0-7.5	Long
Shining flatsedge	<i>Cyperus bipartitus</i>	Up to 5'	Medium	Spring, summer, fall	Mid-summer	14"	Bunch	Rapid	Intolerant	Low	None	4.5-6.5	Short
Flattened oatgrass	<i>Danthonia compressa</i>	Up to 2 1/2'	Low	Spring	Late spring	10"	Bunch	Moderate	Tolerant	Medium	None	4.8-7.0	Moderate
Poverty grass	<i>Danthonia spicata</i>	6"	Low	Spring	May-July	6"	Bunch	Rapid	Intolerant	High	None		Short
Wavy hair grass	<i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i>	12"	Low	Spring, summer	Late spring	8"	Bunch	Moderate	Tolerant	Medium	None	4.8-6.8	Short
Deertongue	<i>Dicanthelium clandestinum</i>	1'-3'	Low	Spring, summer	Early summer	16"	Bunch	Slow	Intolerant	High	Low	4.0-7.5	Long
Canada wildrye	<i>Elymus canadensis</i>	3'-6'	Medium	Spring, summer, fall	June-Aug	16"	Bunch	Rapid	Tolerant	Medium	Medium	5.0-7.9	Short
Riverbank wildrye	<i>Elymus riparius</i>	3'-5'	Medium	Spring, summer	Mid-summer	10"	Bunch	Moderate	Tolerant	Low	None	4.5-7.2	Moderate
Virginia wild-rye	<i>Elymus virginicus</i>	3'-6'	Medium	Spring	Early spring	12"	Bunch	Moderate	Tolerant	Medium	None	5.0-7.4	Short
Tufted love grass	<i>Eragrostis pectinacea</i>	Up to 2'		Summer	Mid-summer to early fall				Intolerant	High			
Purple lovegrass	<i>Eragrostis spectabilis</i>	1'-3'	Low	Spring	Aug-Oct	4"	Bunch	Moderate	Intolerant	High	Intolerant	4.0-7.5	Moderate
Creeping red fescue	<i>Festuca rubra</i>	1'-2'	High	Spring, fall	June-July	12"	Rhizomatous	Moderate	Tolerant	Medium	Low	5.0-8.0	Long

Common Name	Scientific Name	Height	Fertility Requirement	Active Growth Period	Bloom Time	Root Depth (minimum)	Growth Form	Growth Rate	Shade Tolerance	Drought Tolerance	Salinity Tolerance	Soil pH	Lifespan
Red fescue	<i>Festuca rubra ssp pruinosa</i>	Up to 2'	High	Spring, fall	Mid-spring	12"	Rhizomatous	Moderate	Tolerant	Medium	Low	5.0-7.5	Long
Soft rush	<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Up to 4'	Medium	Spring	July-Sept	24"	Bunch	Moderate	Intolerant	Medium	Low	5.5-8.8	Long
Path rush	<i>Juncus tenuis</i>	4"-24"	Low	Spring, summer	May-June	6"	Bunch	Slow	Intermediate	Low	Low	4.5-7.0	Moderate
Rice cutgrass	<i>Leersia oryzoides</i>	Up to 3'	Medium	Summer	June-Oct	14"	Rhizomatous	Moderate	Intolerant	Low	None	5.1-8.8	Moderate
Mexican muhly	<i>Muhlenbergia mexicana</i>	Up to 3'	Medium	Spring, summer, fall	Late summer	8"	Rhizomatous	Moderate	Intermediate	Low	None	5.5-7.5	Short
Switchgrass	<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	4'-6'	High	Summer	July-Sept	12"	Bunch	Rapid	Intolerant	Medium	Medium	4.5-7.5	Long
Little Bluestem	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	Up to 3'	Low	Summer, fall	Summer	14"	Bunch	Moderate	Intolerant	High	None	5.0-8.4	Long
Woolgrass	<i>Scirpus cyperinus</i>	Up to 5'	Medium	Spring	Aug-Sept	12"	Bunch	Moderate	Intermediate	Low	None	4.8-7.2	Long
Sand dropseed	<i>Sporobolus cryptandrus</i>	Up to 5'	Low	Spring	June-Oct	18"	Bunch	Moderate	Intolerant	High	Medium	6.6-8.0	Short
Purpletop	<i>Tridens flavus</i>	2'-5'	Low	Summer	Aug-Sept	10"	Bunch	Moderate	Intolerant	High	None	4.5-6.5	Short