

Plants for North Central Texas

Grasses



Common Name Scientific Name	Evergreen/Perennial ¹	Height (ft)	Width (ft)	Seasonal Interest	Native - Denton County	Color & Features	Garden Lists ²	Maintenance
Big Bluestem <i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	P	4-8'	3-4'	Aug - Nov	Y	Maroon tan in fall.	1,4,5,6	Rake and/or cut to 6" in February
Blue grama <i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>	P	3-4", 12" in flower		Spring, Fall	Y	Fine leaved turf		Water occasionally or grow tall to encourage rhizomes
Bluestem, Little <i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	P	2-5'	1-2'	Fall	Y	Copper leaves	1,4,5,6	Cutting back optional, do not add compost
Buffalograss <i>Bouteloua dactyloides</i>	P	8-10"	Turf		Y	Blue green	4,5	Mow to a height of 2.5-3" or leave unmowed
Bushy Bluestem <i>Andropogon glomeratus</i>	P	2-5'	2-3'	Fall, Winter	Y	Salmon-orange in fall	1,5,6	Rake and/or cut to 6" in February
Canada Wild Rye <i>Elymus canadensis</i>	P	3-5'		Spring, Summer	Y	Curling seed heads	1,2,4,5,6	After the first light frost, cut back the summer flowers
Eastern Gamagrass <i>Tripsacum dactyloides</i>	P	2-6'	3-4'	Apr - June	Y	Blooms are brown.	1,4,5,6	Rake and/or cut to 6" in February (be careful of sharp leaf edges)
Grama, Side Oats <i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>	P	1-3'	1-3'	Summer, Fall	Y	Red, yellow, orange flowers dangling from side	1,4,5,6	Mow once up to June and again in February
Gulf Muhly <i>Muhlenbergia capillaris</i>	P	1.5-3'	1-3'	Fall		Purple, pink seed heads	4,5,6	Cut back in February
Hairy Grama <i>Bouteloua hirsuta</i>	P	1-3'	1-2'	Spring		Brown, pale yellow	1,4,5,6	Leave dead stems standing through Fall and Winter for insect habitat. Cut back dead stems in February before spring growth
Indiangrass <i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	P	3-8'	2-4'	Fall	Y	Red/rust awns	1,4,5,6	Loves moist, rich soil, and watering
Inland Sea Oats <i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i>	P	2-4'	2-3'	Summer, Fall	Y	Ivory seeds	1,2,4,5,6	Cut back to 6" in February
Lindheimer Muhly <i>Muhlenbergia lindheimeri</i>	P	2-5'	3-4'	Fall		Fountain-like silvery plumes	4,5,6	Rake or optionally cut back in February
Mexican Feathergrass <i>Nasella tenuissima</i> (<i>Stipa tenuissima</i>)	SE	1-3'	1-2'	Spring, Early summer		Cream seed heads	4,5	Water during droughts to prevent dormancy. Optionally cut in February
Purple top Grass <i>Tridens flavus</i>	P	2.5-7'	1-2'	Summer, Fall	Y	Red or purple top	4,5,6	
Seep Muhly <i>Muhlenbergia reverchonii</i>	P	1-3.5'	2'	Fall	Y	Delicate masses of white to pink blooms	4	Rake and/or cut to 6" in February.
Splitbeard Bluestem <i>Andropogon ternaries</i>	P	1.5-4'	.5-1'	Summer, Fall	Y	Striking white seed tufts	1,4,5,6	Dormant in winter, may cut back or divide

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Switchgrass <i>Panicum virgatum</i>	P	3-6'	3-5'	Aug - Nov	Y	Reddish-purple, airy seed panicle	1,4,5,6	Rake and/or cut to 6" in February
Texas Bluegrass <i>Poa arachnifera</i>	P	to 3'	1-2'	Spring		Tufts of silky-white hairs	4,5	
Texas Sedge <i>Carex texensis</i>	P	To 1'	1'	Year -round	Y	Green, fine texture		Optional - mow on high setting to maintain desired height
Texas Wild Rye <i>Elymus interruptus</i>	P	to 4'	1-1.5"	May	Y	Green, brown		
Virginia Wild Rye <i>Elymus virginicus</i>	P	to 4'	1-2'	Spring	Y	Yellow	2,5	

KEY:

Evergreen/Perennial¹: E: Evergreen, SE: Semi-Evergreen, D: Deciduous, P: Perennial, A: Annual

Garden Lists²: 1: Butterfly, 2: Shade, 3: Water Garden, 4: Water-Wise, 5: Wildlife Habitat, 6: Winter

Thinking of planting something not on this list?
Please check Texasinvasives.org first