

Prairie Junegrass

Koeleria macrantha



Description: Perennial bunchgrass growing to 18 in. tall. Foliage is lighter green than most grasses. Seed heads are 5 in. long and held on long stems above the foliage.

Habitat: Prefers a well-drained site with regular moisture, but is very drought-tolerant. Full sun or partial shade.

Landscape Uses: This is a low-maintenance bunchgrass. Its best feature is the plume-like seedhead which sways in the wind. Suitable in a wildflower meadow or mixed with perennials to provide contrasting foliage.



Photos Courtesy of Plants of the Wild & Thorn Creek
Native Seed Farm

Sandberg Bluegrass

Poa secunda



Description: A low-growing, cool-season bunchgrass with seed stems to 16 in. tall. Fine green blades that sometimes have a purplish tinge arise from the base. Seed stems are very slender.

Habitat: Found in open areas and pine forests. Needs a well-drained soil that doesn't become flooded. Drought-tolerant. Grow in sun to partial shade.

Landscape Uses: Sandberg bluegrass will green up earlier in the spring than many other grasses. Since the foliage stays fairly low, this might work best in a rock garden or near a perennial border with other low plants.



Photo Courtesy of Sheri Hogwood
USDA-NACS Plants Database

Slender Wheatgrass

Elymus trachycaulus



Description: An upright, perennial bunchgrass growing 2-3 ft. tall. Foliage is green to blue-green. It is a short-lived species persisting 3-5 years, but reseeds readily.

Habitat: Drought-tolerant. Prefers soils that aren't too sandy. Full sun.

Landscape Uses: A more substantial grass than most other native grasses, this one will add depth to a wildflower meadow when mixed with larger perennials.



Photo Courtesy of Plants of the Wild