

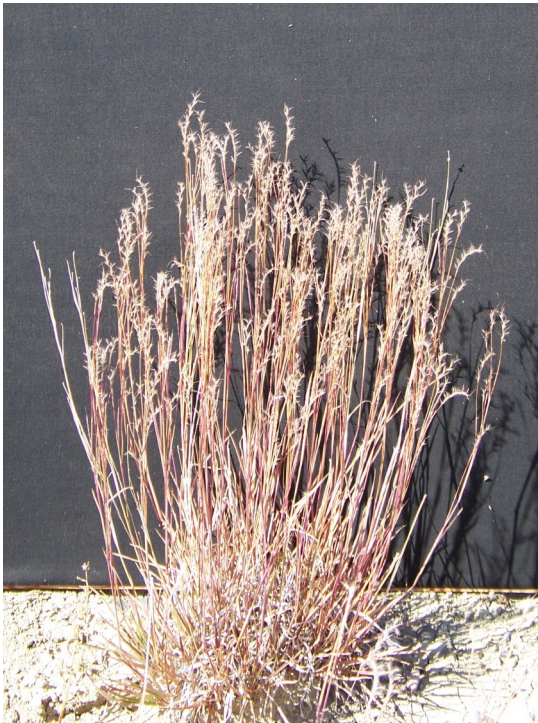
Native Bunchgrasses Used As Specimen/Accent Plants in Native Landscaping

Native bunchgrasses can be used as single specimen or accent plants in native landscaping designs. The bunchgrasses will remain in clumps (not spread by rhizomes) but may spread with seed shatter. If the site utilizes weed barrier and mulching (wood chips, bark, or rock) there may not be much new seedling development for several years.

Native bunchgrasses add a unique aesthetic value to a landscape that is visible all year long. Species such as little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*) and switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*) turn reddish to purple in the fall and are attractive all winter. Species such as Indian ricegrass (*Achnatherum hymenoides* aka *Oryzopsis hymenoides*) provide a nutritious seed for many songbirds. Other attractive native bunchgrasses include blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*), sideoats grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*), basin wildrye (*Leymus cinereus* aka *Elymus cinereus*), rough fescue (*Festuca scabrella campestris*), bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata* aka *Agropyron spicatum*), tufted hairgrass (*Deschampsia caespitosa*) and Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*).

Potted plants of species presently available through some Montana nurseries include switchgrass, bluebunch wheatgrass, little bluestem, basin wildrye, blue grama, and Indian ricegrass. If demand increases for all these species, the nursery industry will no doubt respond. Many Montana nurseries are trying to meet the increasing demand for native landscaping species.

Native Specimen/Accent Bunchgrasses



little bluestem
Schizachyrium scoparium



big bluestem
Andropogon gerardii



Indian ricegrass
Achnatherum hymenoides
(aka *Oryzopsis hymenoides*)



blue grama
Bouteloua gracilis

Native Specimen/Accent Grasses



switchgrass
Panicum virgatum



basin wildrye
Leymus cinereus
(aka *Elymus cinereus*)



rough fescue
Festuca scabrella campestris



Idaho fescue
Festuca idahoensis

Native Specimen/Accent Bunchgrasses



bluebunch wheatgrass
Pseudoroegneria spicata
(aka *Agropyron spicatum*)



sideoats grama
Bouteloua curtipendula



tufted hairgrass
Deschampsia caespitosa