



Sage Advice from the Roundhouse....

Native Grasses

Need an attractive addition or accent for your landscape? Consider using some of the striking native grasses. A perpetual source of interest and texture, perennial bunchgrasses are a unique way to "dress up" an existing hillside, mixed border, or understory. They can also be used in combination with other low-growing annuals and perennials to create a native prairie in place of a resource-intensive lawn; and they make beautiful potted plants!

A FEW OF THE NATIVE GRASSES GROWN AT TREE OF LIFE NURSERY:

***Aristida purpurea*, Purple Three Awn**

drought tolerant bunchgrass, full sun to part shade, delicate, nodding reddish-purple panicles

***Deschapsia caespitosa*, Tufted Hairgrass**

densely clumping perennial, tolerates shade and moisture, bright green blades, tall green to gold flowers in early spring

***Festuca californica*, California Fescue**

cool-season, evergreen bunchgrass, full sun to part shade, prefers moisture, bluish-green foliage, delicate flower spikes

***Leymus (Elymus) species*, Wildrye**

clumping and spreading, tolerate shade, moisture and clay, excellent on slopes and/or as groundcover, attractive

***Melica imperfecta*, Coast Range Melic**

full sun, drought tolerant bunchgrass with slender, bright green blades, purplish spikelets

***Muhlenbergia rigens*, Deergrass**

perennial, summer/fall flowering, coarse tuft at base, long slender white panicles, dramatic

***Nassella (Stipa) species*, Needlegrass**

fine-textured drought tolerant perennial bunchgrass, three foot purplish awns in early spring, good erosion control

Most native grasses generally prefer fertile, well-drained soil and full sun. Plants that complement native grasses nicely in the landscape include:

Blue-Eyed Grass (*Sisyrinchium bellum*)

Douglas Iris (*Iris douglasiana*)

California Fuschia (*Zauschneria* species)

Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*)

Evening Primrose (*Oenothera* species)

Blue Flax (*Linum lewisii*)

California Wild Rose (*Rosa californica*)

Our Lord's Candle (*Yucca whipplei*)

Coral Bells (*Heuchera* hybrids)

California Goldenrod (*Solidago californica*)

Penstemon (*Penstemon* species)

California Poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*)

Wooly Blue Curls (*Trichostema lanata*)

California Aster (*Corethrogyne californica*)

Recommended Reading: Grasses in California, Crampton, and
Encyclopedia of Ornamental Grasses, Greenlee.



PLANTS OF EL CAMINO REAL

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