

APPENDIX 2: Native Grasses/Sedges Recommended for Grassland Bird Habitat

COMMON NAME/ SCIENTIFIC NAME	WARM/COOL SEASON	HEIGHT (feet)	CHARACTERISTICS	HABITAT
Little bluestem <i>Schizachyrium scoparius</i> (<i>Andropogon scoparius</i>)	Warm	1.5–4	Bunch grass in dry or moist soils; drought tolerant; flowers July–October	Sandy fields and disturbed areas in sun; common invader of oldfields in Northeast
Poverty grass <i>Danthonia spicata</i>	Warm	.5–2	Bunch grass; flowers June–July	Abundant in sandy disturbed sites; typical grass along East coast
Pennsylvania sedge <i>Carex pennsylvanica</i>	Cool	.5–1	Flowers in early spring to July	Sun to part shade; common ground layer in dry oak woods
Big bluestem <i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	Warm	3–8	Bunch grass; very drought tolerant, adaptable; flowers August–October	Dry sunny open places along roadsides and shores, moist to dry fields
Broom-sedge <i>Andropogon virginicus</i>	Warm	1–4	Bunch grass; slow spreading, tolerates seasonal saturation; flowers August–October	Dry sunny fields, pastures (invades overgrazed ranges); valuable winter seed source for birds
Switchgrass <i>Panicum virgatum</i>	Warm	2–7	Bunch grass; slow spreading, drought tolerant, prolific; flowers late July–September	Sunny areas in dry soils along sandy roadsides and upland edges of salt marshes; valuable fall and winter food and cover for birds
Red fescue <i>Festuca rubra</i>	Cool	1–3	Moderately drought resistant	Sunny fields and meadows
Kentucky bluegrass <i>Poa pratensis</i>	Cool	1–2	Sod-forming; shallow root system, cannot withstand drought; flowers mainly in spring	Very common in fields, roadsides, lawns, shores; native to northern North America; good seed for birds
Indian grass <i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>	Warm	2–9	Drought tolerant; flowers August–September	Dry sunny fields; in East found sporadically along dry roadsides and fields
Side-oats gramma (tall gramma grass) <i>Bouteloua curtipedula</i>	Warm	1–3.5	Bunch grass; drought tolerant; flowers July–September	Sunny areas in dry woods and prairies

SOIL TYPE	PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS	AGRICULTURAL USES	NURSERIES <i>(See Appendix 3)</i>
Dry to moist, light, textured soil; average fertility; does not grow well in rich soils	Seed late summer to early fall or early spring	Stabilization, range reseeding, landscaping, forage; does not grow well with close mowing/grazing	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
Dry, poor soil	Plant in spring or mid-to late summer		
Dry to moist, mesic, well-drained soil; acidic; average fertility	Plant or seed in fall or early spring		1, 2, 5, 6
Poor to well-drained soil; coarse sand to clay	Seed in spring or summer when soil is warm; blooms first year if sown early	Pasture, forage, hay	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
Tolerates dry to moist soil, prefers fertile well-drained soil	Plant in spring when soil is warm	Poor forage grass; good cover crop (sometimes becomes too dense for some birds)	1, 4
Tolerates many soils but grows best on fertile and moist sandy soil; tolerates moderate salinity	Seed or plant late summer/early fall or early spring; blooms first year if planted early; takes 1-2 years to become totally established	Pasture, forage, erosion control	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 9
Moist to dry or rocky soil; tolerates salt, low fertility	<i>(See nursery)</i>	Used as lawn grass in shady areas	1
Prefers limestone (neutral) porous soils; needs reliable moisture	<i>(See nursery)</i>	Widely used lawn, pasture, and turf grass; grows best after grazing	1
Mesic and dry to moist soil; poor to average fertility	Bloom first year planted	Pasture and range; nutritious for livestock.	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 9
Dry to moist soils; grows best in well-drained rocky/shallow areas		Pasture, range, erosion control	1, 5, 6