LG - Large Grasses: over 3 ft tall

Excellent choices

Common name	Size	Comments
big blue stem		
splitbeard blue stem		
switch grass		Several cultivars
sedge		Many species, mostly in wet sites; several available commercially
	big blue stem splitbeard blue stem switch grass	big blue stem splitbeard blue stem switch grass

Good alternatives

Scientific name	Common name	Size	Comments
Spartina	cord grass		

Popular non-natives

Scientific name	Common name	Size	Comments
Calamagrostis acutiflora	Feather Reed Grass		
Cortaderia selloana 'Pumila'	Dwarf Pampas Grass		Pampas grass in general is overused
Miscanthus spp.	Maiden Grass		Overused

Exotics to Avoid

Scientific name	Common name	Comments
Phyllostachys aurea	Golden Bamboo	Invasive and hard to eradicate
Miscanthus sinensis	Chinese silvergrass	Invasive



MG - Medium Grasses: 1-3 ft tall

Excellent choices

Scientific name	Common name	Size	Comments
Andropogon glomeratus	Bushy Blue Stem		
Muhlenbergia capillaris	Muhly Grass		
Panicum 'Heavy Metal'	Switch Grass		Also several other cultivars in this size
Schizachyrium scoparium	Little Bluestem		

Good alternatives

Scientific name	Common name	Size	Comments
Deschampsia caespitosa	Tufted Hair Grass		
Chasmanthium	Northern Sea Oats		

Popular non-natives

Scientific name	Common name	Size	Comments
Elymus virginicus	Wild Rye		
Cenchrus purpurascens	Fountain Grass		Formerly Pennisetum
Phalaris spp.	Ribbon Grass		

Exotics to Avoid

Scientific name	Common name	Comments

SG - Small Grasses: under 1 ft tall

Excellent choices

Scientific name	Common name	Size	Comments
Carex stricta	sedge		Prefers wet soils
Carex pensylvanicum	Pennsylvania sedge		OK with drier soils
Sisyrinchium angustifolium	blue-eyed grass		In the iris family

Good alternatives

Scientific name	Common name	Size	Comments

Popular non-natives

Scientific name	Common name	Size	Comments
Festuca glauca	Blue Fescue		Delicate silvery blue foliage
Liriope muscari	Lilyturf		Overused as a bed edging
Liriope spicata	Spreading lilyturf		Overused; spreading and invasive

Exotics to Avoid

Scientific name	Common name	Comments