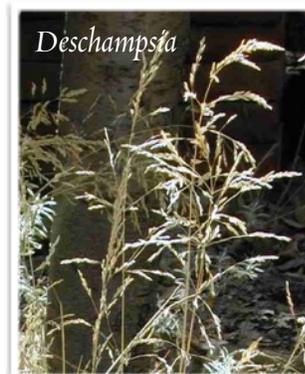
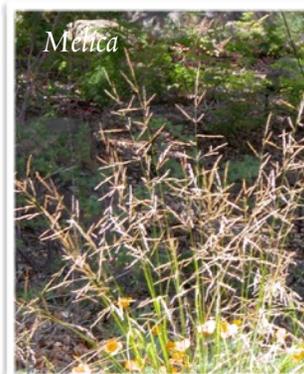


Need an attractive addition or accent for your landscape? Grasses offer a great choice. Many grasses in the trade belong to a group of non-native invasive species (e.g. *Nassella tenuissima*-Mexican Feather Grass). California, however, has its own striking native grass species. A perpetual source of interest and texture, California perennial bunch grasses are a unique way to “dress up” an existing hillside, mixed border or understory. They can be used in combination with other low-growing annuals and perennials to create a native prairie in place of a resource-intensive lawn. They also make beautiful potted plants, adding movement and life to hardscaped patios and walkways. Below are some of the native grasses that make great garden accents.



- Aristida purpurea*, Purple Three Awn
drought tolerant bunchgrass, full sun to part shade, delicate, nodding reddish-purple panicles
- Deschampsia cespitosa*, 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 ground cover, notable selection ‘Canyon Prince’
- 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 aging to gold panicles, dramatic
- Stipa (Nassella) species*, Needlegrass
fine-textured drought tolerant perennial bunchgrass, three foot purplish awns in early spring, good erosion control, effective in massed plantings as well.