



Yavapai County Grasses

| Common Name <i>Botanical Name</i> | Native | Season (1) | Low Water Use (Xeriscape) | Used for: | | | | | Notes |
|---|--------|---------------|---------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------|-------|----------------------|--------------------|---|
| | | | | Turf | Landscape (ornamental) | Range | Irrigated Pasture | Erosion Control | |
| Alkali Sacaton <i>Sporobolus airoides</i> | X | Warm | X | | X | X | | X | https://cals.arizona.edu/yavapaiplants/ Additional References: http://cals.arizona.edu/pubs/natresources/az1272/ http://plants.usda.gov/java/nameSearch |
| Arizona Cottontop <i>Digitaria californica</i> | X | Warm | | | | X | | | |
| Bamboo Muhly <i>Muhlenbergia dumosa</i> | | Warm | X | | X | | | | |
| Barnyardgrass <i>Echinochloa crusgalli</i> | | Warm | | | | X | | | |
| Bermuda <i>Cynodon dactylon</i> | | Warm | | X | | X | X | | 4000' elev or lower (e.g. Dewey or lower elev) |
| Big Galleta <i>Pleuraphis rigida</i> | X | Warm | | | | X | | | |
| Black Grama <i>Bouteloua eriopoda</i> | X | Warm | | | | X | | X | sod-forming perennial, prefers limestone derived soils; one of the better forage grasses in pinyon-juniper areas of YC. Remains green over a long season, even during drought periods. Readily grazed by all classes of livestock. |
| Blue Avena <i>Helictotrichon sempervirens</i> | | Cool | X | | | | | | |
| Blue Fescue <i>Festuca ovina glauca</i> | | Cool | X | | | | | | |
| Blue Grama <i>Bouteloua gracilis</i> | X | Warm | X | X | | X | | X | sod-forming perennial, dense ground cover, found in open grassland, pinyon-juniper & chaparrals. Most palatable grass in YC. Gramas respond well to summer rains & provide some forage year round. |

(1) Cool season grasses should not be fertilized in summer
 VV = Verde Valley, YC = Yavapai County



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| Bottlebrush Squirretail <i>Elymus elymoides</i> | X | Cool | | | | X | | X | Bunch-grass, 10 to 15 inches tall; grows throughout YC on rocky soils in the open & under the canopies of pine forests. Provides low value forage early in the season before the troublesome bearded seedheads make their appearance. |
| Bristly Wolfstail <i>Lycurus setosus</i> | X | Warm | | | | X | | | |
| Buffalograss <i>Buchloe dactyloides</i> | X | Warm | | X | X | | | X | Low-growing, sod-forming perennial, well adapted and spreads rapidly by stolons (above ground runners) |
| Bullgrass <i>Muhlenbergia emersleyi</i> | X | Warm | | | | X | | | |
| Burrograss <i>Schleropogon brevifolius</i> | X | Warm | | | | X | | | |
| Bush Muhly (Hoe Grass) <i>Muhlenbergia porteri</i> | X | Warm | | | | X | | | |
| California Fescue <i>Festuca californica</i> | | Cool | X | | | | | | |
| Cane Beardgrass <i>Bothriochloa barbinodis</i> | X | Warm | | | | X | | | |
| Cheetgrass, Downy Brome <i>Bromus tectorum</i> | | Cool | | | | X | | X | Invasive weed, poorest forage of all the bromes. Winter annual, germinating in late summer or early fall, may remain green through winters; forage is best before seed heads appear in spring. |
| Common Wolfstail <i>Lycurus phleoides</i> | X | Warm | | | | X | | | |
| Crested Wheatgrass <i>Agropyron desertorum</i> | | Cool | | | | X | | | |
| Curly Mesquite <i>Hilaria belangeri</i> | X | Warm | | | | X | | | |

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| Deergrass <i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i> | X | Warm | X | | | X | | | Largest, coarsest perennial bunch grass; low palability but cattle will graze while plant is rapidly growing. Use in dry stream bed plantings or along driveways. Regular water first month and then total of 15" per year. |
| Elymus: Giant Wild Rye <i>Elymus condensatus</i> | | Warm | X | | | | | | |
| Feather Fingergrass <i>Chloris virgata</i> | | Warm | | | | X | | | Common roadside weed; annual; furnishes some forage with sufficient moisture. |
| Fendler's Threeawn <i>Aristida fendleriana</i> | X | Warm | | | | X | | | Sod-form perennial, spring & early summer forage; awns menace to livestock later in summer; small perennial. |
| Fine Fescue <i>Festuca sp.</i> | | Cool | | X | | | | | Most fine fescues are strains of red fescue (<i>festuca rubra</i>). |
| Foxtail Barley <i>Hordeum jubatum</i> | X | Cool | | | | X | | | |
| Fringed Brome <i>Bromus ciliatus</i> | X | Cool | | | | X | | | Stout-rooted perennial bunchgrass, grazed with average relish by cattle & horses. |
| Green Sprangletop <i>Diplachne dubia</i> <i>Leptochloa dubia</i> | X | Warm | X | | | | | | |
| Gulf Coast Muhly 'Regal Mist™' <i>Muhlenbergia capillaris</i> | | Warm | | | X | | | | Small clump grass, narrow glossy green leaves, deep pink flowers in fall; needs moderate irrigation in summer. |
| Hairy Grama <i>Bouteloua hirsuta</i> | X | Warm | | | | X | | X | Close cousin of blue grama, sod-forming. |
| Hall's Panic Grass <i>Panicum hallii</i> | X | Warm | | | | X | | | |
| Indian Ricegrass <i>Achnatherum hymenoides</i> | X | Cool | X | | | X | | X | Bunchgrass, adapted to coarse, well-drained soils & attractive to birds and small mammals. |

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| | | | | | Landscape (ornamental) | Range | Irrigated Pasture | https://cals.arizona.edu/yavapaiplants/ | | |
| Johnsongrass <i>Sorghum halepense</i> | | Warm | | | | X | | | Additional References: http://cals.arizona.edu/pubs/natresources/az1272/ http://plants.usda.gov/java/nameSearch Invasive weed | |
| Junegrass <i>Koeleria macrantha</i> | X | Cool | | | | X | | | | |
| Kentucky Blue <i>Poa pratensis</i> | | Cool | | X | | | | | | |
| Lindheimer's Muhly 'Autumn Glow™' <i>Muhlenbergia lindheimeri</i> | | Warm | | | X | | | | Clump grass, strong vertical form w/ slender, light green leaves; tall spikes of yellow flowers in fall; moderate summer irrigation. | |
| Little Bluestem <i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i> | X | Warm | | | X | X | | | Clump grass, drought tolerant; reddish-brown in autumn. | |
| Maiden Hair <i>Miscanthus sinensis</i> | | Warm | X | | | | | | | |
| Mat Muhly <i>Muhlenbergia richardsonis</i> | X | Warm | | | | | | X | Sod-forming perennial, fair forage value | |
| Mexican Feather Grass <i>Nassella tenuissima</i> | | Cool | | | X | | | | Clump of chartreuse threadlike leaves & stems that turn gold in winter; shortlived but naturalizes in landscape. | |
| Mexican Lovegrass <i>Eragrostis mexicana</i> | X | Warm | | | | X | | | Short-rooted annual bunchgrass. Common weed, fair forage when green. | |
| Mountain Muhly <i>Muhlenbergia montana</i> | X | Warm | | | | X | | | Dense growing, common on rocky sites above 5,000'. Grazed in early summer. | |
| Muttongrass <i>Poa fendleriana</i> | X | Cool | | | | X | | | Abundant bunchgrass, good forage early spring through summer. | |
| Needle & Thread <i>Hesperostipa comata</i> | X | Cool | X | | | X | | X | Perennial bunchgrass, adapted to coarse, well-drained, limestone derived soils. Attractive when seed heads are backlit. | |
| Nodding Brome <i>Bromus anomalus</i> | X | Warm | | | | X | | | Perennial bunchgrass; medium to high elevations; moderate forage value to cattle & horses. | |

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| Orchardgrass <i>Dactylis glomerata</i> | | Cool | | | | X | X | | https://cals.arizona.edu/yavapaiplants/ Additional References: http://cals.arizona.edu/pubs/natresources/az1272/ http://plants.usda.gov/java/nameSearch |
| Perennial Rye <i>Lolium perenne</i> | | Cool | | X | | | | | |
| Pine Dropseed <i>Blepharoneuron tricholepsis</i> | X | Warm | | | | X | | | |
| Plains Bristlegrass <i>Setaria macrostachya</i> | X | Warm | | | | X | | | |
| Plains Lovegrass <i>Eragrostis intermedia</i> | X | Warm | X | | | X | | X | Bunchgrass, deep root system, highly desirable forage plant. |
| Poverty Threeawn <i>Aristida divaricata</i> | X | Warm | | | | X | | | Perennial, sod-forming, valuable forage but less readily grazed than most perennial grammas; establishes easily. |
| Prescott or Verde Valley Blend or Mix | | Cool | | X | | | | | Normally consists of Kentucky bluegrass & perennial rye; some brands include some type of fescue. |
| Purple Fountain grass <i>Pennisetum setaceum</i> 'rubrum' | | Warm | X | | | | | | <i>Pennisetum setaceum</i> is invasive, <i>P. s. 'rubrum'</i> is thought to be less invasive, but many have doubts. |
| Purple Threeawn <i>Aristida purpurea</i> | X | Warm | X | | X | X | | | Perennial, sod-forming |
| Rabbit'sfoot <i>Polypogon monspeliensis</i> | | Cool | | | | X | | | |
| Red Brome <i>Bromus rubens</i> | | Cool | | | | X | | | aka Foxtail Brome, Foxtail Chess; early spring weedy annual; turns red at maturity; considered a pest. |
| Red Threeawn <i>Aristida purpurea</i> | X | Warm | | | | X | | | Perennial, sod-forming |
| Ring Muhly (Ringgrass) <i>Muhlenbergia torreyi</i> | X | Warm | | | | X | | | Perennial, sod-forming |

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| Ripgut Brome <i>Bromus rigidus</i> | | Cool | | | | X | | | https://cals.arizona.edu/yavapaiplants/ Additional References: http://cals.arizona.edu/pubs/natresources/az1272/ http://plants.usda.gov/java/nameSearch |
| Rothrock Grama <i>Bouteloua rothrockii</i> | X | Warm | | | | X | | | |
| Rough Bentgrass <i>Agrostis scabra</i> | X | Warm | | | | X | | | |
| Sand Dropseed <i>Sporobolus cryptandrus</i> | X | Warm | X | | | X | | X | Perennial bunchgrass; thrives on sandy soils; establishes easily; good forage in summer rainy season. |
| Sideoats Grama <i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i> | X | Warm | X | | X | X | | X | Perennial bunchgrass, grows best on slopes with medium to fine textured soils. |
| Sixweeks Grama <i>Bouteloua barbata</i> | X | Warm | | | | X | | | |
| Sixweeks Needle Grama <i>Bouteloua aristidoides</i> | X | Warm | | | | X | | | |
| Sixweeks Threeawn <i>Aristida adscensionis</i> | X | Warm | | | | X | | | Perennial, sod-forming |
| Slim Tridens <i>Tridens muticus</i> | X | Warm | | | | X | | | |
| Smooth Brome <i>Bromus inermis</i> | X | Cool | | | | X | X | | |
| Spidergrass <i>Aristida ternipes</i> | X | Warm | | | | X | | | |
| Spike Dropseed <i>Sporobolus contractus</i> | X | Warm | | | | X | | | |
| Spike Muhly <i>Muhlenbergia wrightii</i> | X | Warm | | | | X | | | |
| Spike Pappusgrass <i>Enneapogon desvauxii</i> | X | Warm | | | | X | | | |

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| Sprucetop Grama <i>Bouteloua chondrosioides</i> | X | Warm | | | | X | | | |
| Stinkgrass <i>Eragrostis cilianensis</i> | X | Warm | | | | X | | | |
| Tall Fescue <i>Schedonorus arundinacea</i> | | Cool | | X | | | X | | |
| Tall Wheatgrass <i>Thinopyron ponticum</i> | | Cool | | | | | X | | |
| Tanglehead <i>Heteropogon contortus</i> | X | Warm | | | | X | | | |
| Texas Bluestem <i>Schizachyrium cirratum</i> | X | Warm | | | | X | | | aka Texas Beardgrass |
| Tobosa <i>Pleuraphis mutica</i> | X | Warm | X | | | X | | X | sod-forming, often grows on clay soils on benches and swales, highly drought resistant once established. |
| Tumblegrass <i>Schedonnardus paniculatus</i> | X | Warm | | | | X | | | |
| Vine Mesquite <i>Hopia obtusum</i> | X | Warm | X | | | X | | X | sod-forming perennial, excellent soil stabilizer, prefers low areas having fine textured soils. |
| Weeping Lovegrass <i>Eragrostis curvula</i> | | Warm | | | | X | | | |
| Western Wheatgrass (Bluestem) <i>Elymus smithii</i> | X | Cool | | | | X | | | |
| Wild Oats <i>Avena fatua</i> | | Cool | | | | X | | | |
| Wilman Lovegrass <i>Eragrostis superba</i> | | Warm | | | | X | | | |

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| Witchgrass <i>Panicum capillare</i> | X | Warm | | | | X | | | |
| Wolfstail <i>Lycurus phleoides</i> | X | Warm | | | | X | | | Bunchgrass; one of the better perennial grasses in the grassland, chaparral, and pinyon-juniper areas; responds to summer rains; provides the best forage during and after summer rainy period. |
| Zoysia <i>Zoysia matrella</i> | | Warm | | X | | | | | Rarely grown, can be difficult to establish, often grown from plugs. |

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