Native Grass Species Appropriate for Restoration Projects



The following native prairie grasses are known to occur in the Upper Thames River watershed and are appropriate for grassland restoration projects. The list does not include native grasses that are known to be weedy in restoration sites.

Recommended Grasses

Scientific Name	Common Name	Prefers Dry Sites	Prefers Wet Sites	Notes
Andropogon gerardi	Big Bluestem	✓		
Bromus ciliatus	Fringed Brome		✓	
Bromus kalmii	Kalm's Brome	✓		May not be available at nurseries
Calamagrostis canadensis	Bluejoint Reedgrass		✓	Formerly Canada Bluejoint
Elymus canadensis	Canada Wildrye	✓		
Elymus hystrix	Bottlebrush Grass	✓		Prefers light shade
Elymus lanceolatus	Thick-spike Wildrye			
Elymus riparius	Eastern Riverbank Wildrye		√	
Elymus virginicus	Virginia Wildrye	✓		
Glyceria grandis	Tall Mannagrass		✓	
Glyceria striata	Fowl Mannagrass		✓	
Leersia oryzoides	Rice Cutgrass		✓	
Muglenbergia mexicana	Mexican Muhly		✓	Formerly Satin Grass
Panicum virgatum	Old Switch Panicgrass	✓	✓	Formerly Switchgrass
Poa palustris	Fowl Bluegrass		✓	Formerly Meadow Grass
Schizachyrium scoparium	Little Bluestem	✓		
Sorghastrum nutans	Yellow Indiangrass	✓		
Sporobolus compositus	Rough Dropseed	✓		
Sporobolus cryptandrus	Sand Dropseed	✓		









Additional information is available at www.thamesriver.on.ca, including:

- Butterfly Larvae Host Food Plants
- Gardening with Native Plants
- Invasive Non-native Plants in the Upper Thames River Watershed
- Recommended Native Wildflowers and Grasses
- Recommended Native Trees and Shrubs
- Southwestern Ontario Nurseries that Sell Native Plants
- Tallgrass Prairie Plant Species Native to Middlesex, Oxford, and Perth Counties

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