

# Grasses + Grass-like Species

## SUMMARY

Species in this group are grasses or grass-like, with long, slender leaf blades. Species can be differentiated based on overall plant size, leaf size and shape, flowerhead characteristics, and habitat.

## LOOK ALIKES

Many of these species have look alike that are addressed in species-specific profiles.



Scientific Name	Common Name	NR 40
<i>Glyceria maxima</i>	Reed manna grass	P/R
<i>Leymus arenarius</i>	Lyme grass / sand ryegrass	P/R
<i>Microstegium vimineum</i>	Japanese stiltgrass	P
<i>Oplismenus hirtellus</i> spp. <i>undulatifolius</i>	Wavy leaf basket grass	P
<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	Reed canary grass	NR
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Phragmites / common reed	P/R
<i>Sorghum halepense</i>	Johsongrass	P
<i>Taeniatherum caput-medusae</i>	Medusahead	P
<i>Typha angustifolia</i>	Narrow-leaf cattail	R
<i>Typha x glauca</i>	Hybrid cattail	R



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Scientific Name	Common Name	Stem	Leaves	Flowers
<i>Glyceria maxima</i>	Reed manna grass	Up to 8' tall, reddish tint on lower stem	Protrude at angle from white, strongly V-shaped base; flat, rough-edged	6-12" panicle; June – Aug.
<i>Leymus arenarius</i>	Lyme grass / sand ryegrass	Smooth, round, stout; 2-4' tall	Broad, rigid, straight, blue-green leaves	Dense spike with 3 flowered spikelets
<i>Microstegium vimineum</i>	Japanese stiltgrass	1-3' tall; hairless, branched	2-3" long; pale green with silvery, off-center stripe down midvein	1-3" flower spikes; mid-September
<i>Oplismenus hirtellus</i> spp. <i>undulatifolius</i>	Wavy leaf basket grass	Covered in scattered hairs; 8-12" tall	Wavy leaf blades with horizontal ripples across their width	Small, feathery, wispy; mid-August
<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	Reed canary grass	2-5' tall, smooth, unbranched	Hairless but rough-textured; ligule translucent, up to 1/3" long	2-16" long, pyramidal branching cluster; late spring to early summer
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Phragmites / common reed	3-15' tall, ribbed, rough-textured; lower stems dull green to tan	Blue-green, flat, hairless; ligule with fringe of short hairs; nodes green to purple with ring of fine hairs along upper edge	Feathery branching clusters, 6-14" long; Sept. – Nov.
<i>Sorghum halepense</i>	Johsongrass	Up to 12' tall, coarse textured	2' long, distinct white midribs	spreading, purplish panicle, 4-24" tall
<i>Taeniatherum caput-medusae</i>	Medusahead	6-20" tall, 1+ stems from base of plant	Few leaves; somewhat rolled, less than 1/8" wide	Single short spike-type seed head in late spring
<i>Typha angustifolia</i>	Narrow-leaf cattail	5-10' tall, often with submerged base	Erect, linear, flat; 1/8 – 1/2" wide; ~15 leaves per shoot	Spike with upper section of yellow, male flowers and lower, brown, sausage-shaped section of female flowers separated by 1/2 - 4"; late spring
<i>Typha x glauca</i>	Hybrid cattail	5-10' tall; often with submerged base	Erect, linear, flat; 1/3 – 3/4" wide; ~15 leaves per shoot	Spike with upper section of yellow male flowers and lower brown/green sausage-shaped section of female flowers separated by 0-2"; late spring