



Approved Water-Smart Grasses

All of the grass species listed below are approved by the Scotts Valley Water District as part of the Landscape Water Conservation Program. Customers who replace non-native, high-water using grass lawns with the native, low-water using grass plants on this list are eligible for a credit on their water bill. All of the species listed are native to the Scotts Valley. Most require little to no supplemental irrigation.

NOTE: Grass may *initially* require a period of regular irrigation. The irrigation requirements described below refer to grasses which are already established.

➤ *Bouteloua spp.* – Grama Grass

Grama grass is a native of the dry North American grasslands. It can grow anywhere from 1 to 2 feet tall, and 1 to 2 feet wide. It tends to form clumps of narrow gray-green leaves and has oddly attractive flowering stems which carry their summer flowers only on one side. It can be clipped short in order to create a lawn-like landscape.

This grass likes full sun, is both heat and drought tolerant, and requires virtually no supplemental irrigation.



➤ *Carex spp.* – Sedge Grass

Sedge grasses encompass a wide variety of species, with varying characteristics. These plants generally grow in clumps of long, narrow evergreen leaves with varying color stripes. Names of the approved species are *barbarae*, *buchananii*, *comans*, *flacca*, *flagellifera*, *pansa*, *subfusca*, and *testacea*. Some species grow up to 2 feet tall, while others can be clipped in order to create a lawn-like landscape.

This grass likes full to partial sun and requires little to moderate supplemental irrigation.



➤ *Leymus spp.* – Wild Rye Grass

This native grass is principally known for its unique coloration, generally blue, gray, and silver. Plants grow relatively tall, some species up to 4 feet, and act as good soil binders.

This grass likes full to partial sun, and is very drought tolerant, requiring little supplemental irrigation.



➤ *Muhlenbergia spp.* – Muhly Grass

Muhly grass is characterized by having long, narrow leaves that are evergreen in color.

This plant forms tall, dense clumps of grass, and tend to have a show-y appearance.

This grass likes full to partial sun and is very drought tolerant, requiring little to no supplemental irrigation.



➤ *Nassella spp.* – Needle Grass

Needle grass is a California native grass which grows in clumps with long, needlelike or threadlike appendages giving it a feathery appearance. The plant can grow up to 3 feet tall and 2 feet wide. This grass is good for stabilizing soils and creating a meadow-like appearance. It is considered a cold season grower, meaning the plant might go dormant during warmer, summer months, but returns annually during the cooler, wetter autumn months.

This grass likes full sun and requires little to no supplemental irrigation.



➤ *Sporobolus spp.* – Dropseed Grass

Dropseed grass has a fine-textured, clumped appearance. The grass can grow up to 3 feet high. These deep-rooted plants are excellent for mass planting for a meadow-like appearance and tolerate a wide range of soil conditions. This grass likes full sun and requires little supplemental irrigation.

