

Elymus (Leymus) condensatus



Photo by: Bob Perry

Common Name: Giant Wild Rye
Family: Poaceae
Light: Full sun or light shade.
Characteristics of plant: Perennial grass 4'-9' tall and 3'-6' wide with green leaves. 'Canyon Prince' foliage matures to silvery blue, 4' tall and 3' wide.
Water needs: Little to moderate supplemental water.
Special Features: Very drought tolerant.

Festuca californica



Photo by: G.F. Hrusa © CDFA 2001

Common Name: California Fescue
Family: Poaceae
Light: Full sun.
Characteristics of plant: Grows as a loose clump of bluish leaves, 2'-3' tall and 1'-2' wide. Flowers in late spring, early summer.
Water needs: Moderate to regular water.
Special Features: Drought tolerant in cooler zones. Tolerant of many soil types.

Muhlenbergia rigens



Photo by: Charles E. Jones © 2002

Common Name: Deer Grass

Family: Poaceae

Light: Full sun or light shade.

Characteristics of plant: Dense clump of bright green leaves, to 4' tall and wide. Flower spikes rise 2' above leaves and are yellow or purple.

Water needs: Moderate to no water.

Special Features: Very drought tolerant, but looks better with some supplemental water.

Nassella (Stipa) pulchra



Photo by: Brent Miller © 2003

Common Name: Purple Needle Grass

Family: Poaceae

Light: Full sun.

Characteristics of plant: Clumps of arching fine leaves, topped with feathery-looking flowers. Grows to 3' tall and wide. Blooms in late winter, early spring.

Water needs: Moderate water.