

# CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

## NATIVE GRASSES WORDSEARCH 1

D	F	E	M	O	R	B	A	I	N	R	O	F	I	L	A	C
E	M	L	I	I	R	J	L	W	K	S	G	M	C	E	D	U
L	S	O	U	U	I	R	L	E	Q	S	V	K	L	A	A	L
I	S	E	U	F	K	W	I	A	M	A	R	G	E	U	L	B
A	A	M	K	N	F	S	N	K	S	R	S	R	K	J	K	I
T	R	E	Q	S	T	S	A	M	R	G	H	S	S	U	A	G
X	G	A	A	S	B	A	V	A	F	T	P	S	P	N	L	G
O	D	D	W	A	W	R	I	N	D	N	K	A	R	E	I	A
F	E	O	E	R	V	G	O	N	D	E	Q	R	A	G	S	L
N	E	W	U	G	N	R	A	A	T	B	I	G	N	R	A	L
W	R	B	V	E	M	E	T	G	H	I	H	D	G	A	C	E
A	A	A	N	L	L	N	G	R	E	H	M	R	L	S	A	T
T	K	R	N	D	D	B	R	A	O	U	E	O	E	S	T	A
R	T	L	E	E	E	I	A	S	R	C	W	C	T	C	O	K
O	U	E	U	E	R	R	S	S	I	A	F	P	O	H	N	U
H	N	Y	Y	N	W	C	S	R	A	F	A	F	P	C	Y	U
S	N	N	E	U	C	S	E	F	S	Y	A	R	G	I	I	P

### CAN YOU FIND THESE GRASSES?

ALKALI SACATON  
 BENT GRASS  
 BIG GALLETA  
 BLUE GRAMA  
 CALIFORNIA BROME  
 CORDGRASS  
 FLUFF  
 GRAY'S FESCUE  
 JUNEGRASS  
 MEADOW BARLEY  
 MOUNTAIN TIMOTHY

NEEDLE GRASS  
 NEEDLE-AND-THREAD  
 NUTKA REED GRASS  
 OATGRASS  
 RICE  
 SCRIBNER GRASS  
 SHORT-AWN FOXTAIL  
 SPRANGLETOP  
 VANILLA  
 WEAK MANNAGRASS

# ABOUT GRASSES IN GENERAL

There are 600 to 700 genera and 6000 to 10,000 species in the Gramineae, the grass family, depending on who is counting. This makes grasses the third largest family in term of genera (behind orchids and composites) and the fifth largest in terms of species (behind orchids, composites, legumes and Rubiaceae).

Note: Examples of composites are sunflowers. Examples of legumes are plants producing peas or beans. Examples of Rubiaceae are plants producing coffee beans or medicines like quinine.

Grasses occur on all continents and most islands, from sea shore to mountaintop. About one quarter of the earth's plant cover is composed of grasses.

While "woodland", "chaparral" and "marsh" are words used to describe the environments and the architecture of the plant communities, "grassland" refers simply to an area covered by grasses. So do the terms prairie, meadow, steppe, pampas, savanna, paramos and veldt.

Grasses are with us in the cities, either as ornamentals or as weeds. You are never far from a grass.

Here are names of some California native grasses:

Blue grama  
Big galleta  
Bent grass  
Nutka reed grass  
Bearded sprangletop  
Rice cutgrass  
Short-awn foxtail  
Needle-and-thread  
Gray's fescue  
California cordgrass  
Weak mannagrass

California brome  
Vanilla grass  
Fluff grass  
Scribner grass  
Meadow barley  
Mountain timothy  
Junegrass  
California oatgrass  
Purple needlegrass  
Alkali sacaton