TRIBE: ANDROP OGONEAE

Bluestem tribe
Andropogon gerardii
Warm-season perennial
Bunchgrass
Turkey-foot seed-head
Stems bluish red color
Low tolerance to grazing
Excellent forage
Broomsedge bluestem

- *Andropogon virginicus*
- Warm season grass
- Central to eastern Texas
- Robust inflorescence with overlapping sheath
Silver bluestem

- *Bothriochloa laguroides*
- Warm-season perennial
- Bunchgrass
- Native
- Seed-heads with silver hair
- Stems crooked and branching
- Good Forage
- Forage preference depends on availability of other bunchgrasses
Bothriochloa barbinodis
Warm season grass
Throughout Texas
Looks like Silver bluestem but stems don’t branch
Bothriochloa sp.
- KR bluestem
- WW Spar bluestem
- WW B-Dahl bluestem
- Bent stem
- Introduced warm-season perennials
- Bunchgrass
- Decumbent growth (KR)
- Both Spar and B-Dahl produce large amount of leaf material
- Commonly used in seed mixtures
- Good forage

Old World Bluestems
Tanglehead

- *Heterpogon contortus*
- Warm season grass
- Mexico and southwestern Texas
Little bluestem

- *Schizachyrium scoparium*
- Warm-season perennial
- Bunchgrass
- Leafy base with keeled leaves
- Seed-head partially enclosed by upper leaf
- Excellent forage
Indiangrass

- *Sorghastrum nutans*
- Warm-season perennial
- Bunchgrass
- Yellow inflorescence
- Bent awns emerging along side seeds
- Excellent forage
Johnsongrass

- *Sorghum halepense*
- Warm-season perennial
- Introduced
- Rhizomes
- Open panicle
- Obvious midrib
- Good forage, but known to cause prussic acid poisoning when wilting
Eastern gamagrass

- *Tripsacum dactyloides*
- Warm-season perennial
- Bunchgrass
- Separate male and female flowers (like the tassels of corn)
- Broad leaves
- Does not tolerate grazing well
- In west central Texas, usually found where soil moisture is high
- Excellent forage
TRIBE: ARISTIDEAE

Threeawn
Purple threeawn

- *Aristida purpurea*
- Warm-season perennial
- Seed with three awns
- Purple-colored awns are long compared to Wright’s threeawn
- Shortgrass
- Poor forage
Old field threeawn

- *Aristida oligantha*
- Warm season
- Annual
- Disturbed sites
- Central Texas and throughout eastern U.S.
Wright’s threeawn

- *Aristida Wrightii*
- Warm-season perennial
- Bunchgrass
- Seeds with three awns
- Awns shorter than purple threeawn
- Poor forage
TRIBE: AVENEAE
Wild oat

- *Avena fatua*
- Annual
- Cool season
- Throughout U.S.
- Good forage value
BROMEAE
Cheatgrass

- *Bromus tectorum*
- Cool season
- Annual
- Introduced
- Poor forage
- Invasive
Rescuegrass

- *Bromus uniloides*
- Cool-season annual
- Flattened spikelets or seed-heads
- Leaves rough
- Fair forage
TRIBE: CYNDONTEAE
Bouteloua curtipendula
Warm-season perennial
Bunchgrass, rhizomes present in some varieties
Seeds hanging from one side
Long hairs on leaf margins
Good forage
State grass of Texas
Black grama

- *Bouteloua eriopoda*
- Warm season
- Perennial
- Native
- Good forage
- Western Texas
Blue grama

- *Bouteloua gracilis*
- Warm season
- Perennial
- Native
- Sodgrass
- Good forage
Hairy grama

- **Bouteloua hirsuta**
- Warm-season perennial
- Stinger on tip of seedhead
- Rocky/shallow soils
- Shortgrass
- Fair forage
Texas grama

- *Bouteloua rigidiseta*
- Warm-season perennial
- Shortgrass
- Short, pointed leaves
- Bell-shaped seeds with short awns
- Seeds on one side of stem
- Fair forage
Red Grama

- *Bouteloua trifida*
- Warm-season perennial
- Shortgrass
- Seed-head resembles eyelashes
- Shortest leaves of gramas
- Poor forage
**Buffalograss**

- *Buchloe dactyloides*
- Warm-season perennial
- Sodgrass
- Male and female plants
- Male flower resembles flag
- Smooth nodes
- Fair forage, very palatable, but does not produce a lot of forage because of short stature
Hooded windmillgrass

- *Chloris cucculata*
- Warm-season perennial
- Shortgrass
- Seeds triangular and appear inflated
- Basal keeled leaves
- Fair forage
Tumble windmillgrass

- *Chloris verticillata*
- Warm-season perennial
- Shortgrass
- Basal keeled leaves
- Larger seed-head
- Poor forage
Bermudagrass

- *Cynodon dactylon*
- Introduced perennial
- Sodgrass with stolons and rhizomes
- Culms/stems flattened
- Good forage
- With adequate water, may form monoculture
Curly mesquite

- *Hilaria belangeri*
- Warm-season perennial
- Sodgrass
- Often confused with buffalo grass
- Nodes of stems and stolons are fuzzy. Nodes of bufalagrass are smooth.
- Poor forage. Animals were readily consume bufalagrass before consuming curly mesquite
Hilaria mutuca
Warm-season perennial
Bunchgrass
Papery-fanned seeds
Non-herbaceous, sprouts leaves from existing stems in spring
Scaly base, decumbent
Poor forage
Tumblegrass

- *Schedonnardus paniculatus*
- Warm-season perennial
- Shortgrass
- Spirally twisted leaves
- Slender seed-head, with seeds embedded in stem
- Poor forage
TRIBE: ERAGROSTEAE
Weeping lovegrass

- *Eragrostis curvula*
- Warm season
- Perennial
- Introduced
- CRP
- Fair forage
- Texas and Southeast
Sand lovegrass

- *Eragrostis trichodes*
- Warm season
- Perennial
- Native
- Sandy soils
- Great Plains
- Good forage
Wilman’s lovegrass

- *Eragrostis superba*
- Introduced warm-season perennial
- Compressed spikelets
- Rapid germination in seeding mixtures
- Good forage
Gummy lovegrass

- *Eragrostis curtipedicellata*
- Perennial
- Native
- Seedhead is sticky
- Poor forage
Hairy tridens

- *Erioneuron pilosum*
- Warm-season perennial
- Shortgrass
- Small densely hairy seedhead
- Racing strips (white margins) on leaves
- Poor forage
Green sprangletop

- *Leptochloa dubia*
- Warm-season perennial
- Bunchgrass
- Flowers in late summer
- Sprangled seed-head
- Sheaths keeled
- Good forage
Bush muhly

- *Muhlenbergia porteri*
- Warm season
- Perennial
- Native
- Western Texas
- Good forage
Ring muhly

- *Muhlenbergia torreyi*
- Warm season
- Perennial
- Native
- Poor forage
Burrograss

- *Scleropogon brevifolis*
- Warm season
- Perennial
- Native
- Western Texas
- Poor forage
Sporobolus airoides
- warm season
- Perennial
- Native
- Central and western Texas
- Moist sites/saline sites
- Good forage
Sporobolus compositus
Warm season
Perennial
Native
Texas to Northeastern U.S.
Clay soils
Fair forage
Sporobolus cryptandrus
Warm-season perennial
Shortgrass
Diamond-shaped seedhead
“flag-leaf”
Ring of hair at collar
Fair forage. Palatable but very little biomass produced
Tridens albescens
Warm-season perennial
Bunchgrass
Mildew smell
Basal leaves
Seeds white with reddish tinge
Poor forage
**Slim tridens**

- *Tridens muticus*
- Warm-season perennial
- Seedhead contracted
- Poor forage
TRIBE: PANICLAE
Arizona cottontop

- *Digitaria californica*
- Warm-season perennial
- Bunchgrass
- Flowers in late summer
- Hairy base
- Seeds covered with white hair
- Good forage
Fall witchgrass

- *Digitaria cognata*
- Warm-season perennial
- Open panicle seedhead
- Seeds on ends of branches
- Edge of leaves wavy or serrated
- Fair forage
Texas cupgrass

- *Eriochloa sericea*
- Warm-season perennial
- Seeds/flowers in rows compressed against stem
- Nodes pubescent
- Good forage
Hall’s panicum

- *Panicum hallii*
- Warm-season perennial
- Shortgrass
- At maturity leaves curl and turn brown, resemble wood shavings
- Looks like a small Kleingrass
- Good forage, but does not produce a lot of forage because of small stature
Panicum obtusum
Warm-season perennial
Sodgrass
Long wire-like stolons
Seeds in rows along stem
Good forage
Kleingrass

- *Panicum coloratum*
- Warm-season perennial
- Bunchgrass
- Introduced
- Knotty base
- Open panicle
- No distinguishing characteristics
- Good forage, but known to cause photosensitization (swell head) in sheep
Switchgrass

- *Panicum virgatum*
- Warm-season perennial
- Bunchgrass
- Tall grass with large panicle seedhead
- Seeds on tip of branches
- Triangular patch of hair at base of leaves
- Excellent forage
Dallasgrass

- *Paspalum dilatatum*
- Introduced
- Warm-season perennial
- Common in lawns
- Spikelets/seeds in two rows along branches of seedhead
- Good forage
Bahia grass

- *Paspalum notatum*
- Perennial
- Warm season
- Southeastern Texas
- Introduced
- Good forage
Barnyard grass

- *Echinochloa crusgalli*
- Annual warm-season grass
- Common on disturbed sites
- Edge of leaves saw-toothed
- Fair forage
Buffelgrass

- Pennisetum cilaris
- Perennial
- Warm season
- Introduced
- Good forage
- Dominant grass in south Texas
Sand bur

- *Cenchrus incertus*
- Annual
- Warm-season grass
- Common on disturbed sites
- Stems spreading at the base and usually bent
- Poor forage
Plains bristlegrass

- *Setaria leucopila*
- Warm-season perennial
- Bunchgrass
- Short bristles next to round seeds
- Usually growing in shade of tree or shrub
- Good forage
Knotroot bristlegrass

- *Seteria geniculata*
- Perennial
- Native
- Warm season
- Fair
POEAE
Bluegrass Tribe
Rye Grass

- *Lolium perenne*
- Perennial or annual
- Introduced
- Good forage
- Dominating some locations in Edwards Plateau
Kentucky bluegrass

- *Poa pratensis*
- Perennial
- Introduced
- Good forage
- Throughout northern latitudes
Sixweeks fescue

- *Vulpia octoflora*
- Annual
- Native
- Cool season
- Poor forage
- Common in Texas during wet winters/springs
STIPEAE

Needlegrass Tribe
Texas wintergrass

- **Stipa leucotricha**
- Cool-season bunchgrass
- Long awns on seeds
- Leaves feel rough
- Fair forage. Readily consumed by livestock until seed-heads emerge
- Problems with wool and mohair contamination once seeds mature
TRITICEAE

Wheatgrass Tribe
Canada wildrye

- *Elymus canadensis*
- Cool-season perennial
- Spike inflorescence, nodding at maturity
- Long awns
- Common only in wet springs in west-central Texas
Elymus elymoides
Cool-season perennial
Leaf blades with prominent awns
Good forage until seed-heads emerge
Western wheatgrass

- *Elymus smithii*
- Perennial
- Native
- Cool season
- Good forage
- From northern Texas to throughout central and western U.S.
Foxtail barley

- *Hordeum jubatum*
- Perennial
- Native
- Cool season
- Throughout U.S.
- Poor forage
Little Barley

- *Hordeum pussillium*
- Annual cool season
- Contracted seed-head with short, stout awns
- Matures in late spring/early summer
- Poor forage for livestock and wildlife