

Low-Water Native Grasses for Lawns in Colorado Western Slope

Native Grasses:

Buffalograss – [UC Verde](#) (*Buchloe dactyloides*)

- Moderate to high tolerance to foot traffic once set.
- Water deeply 3x per month in growing season.
- Mow once per month. Grows 6-8 in tall.
- Greens from March to November.
- Available as plugs. Other buffalograsses are by seed.



Meadow Sedge - [California](#) (*Carex pansa*)

- Moderate tolerance to foot traffic.
- Water deeply 2x per month in growing season.
- Mow 3x per year. Grows 8-10 in tall.
- Considered an evergreen grass with winter rains.
- Available as seed, plugs, or 4-inch plants.



Blue Grama [Grass](#) (*Bouteloua gracilis*)

- High tolerance to foot traffic.
- Water deeply once per month in growing season.
- Mow 2x per year. Grows 12 in tall.
- Greens from May to early October.
- Available as seed, plugs, or 4-inch plants.



Bentgrass – [Native California/Seashore](#) (*Agrostis pallens*)

- High tolerance to foot traffic.
- Water once per week in growing season.
- Mow once per month. Grows 12 in tall.
- Greens from February to November.
- Available as seed or sod.



General Lawn Establishment Tips:

- Watering needs for establishment are much higher in the first year and once established, the next few years for all these grasses will become more drought tolerant.
- Keep the lawn untouched from foot traffic or mowing in the first year and maintain weed control as best as possible.
- Clover can be a great addition to any seed mixes of grasses as a natural fertilizer for the lawn and to attract pollinator species.
- Most grass species above are not tall species and can be left without mowing for a low meadow look.
- However, mowing once the grasses are established can spread their growth wider instead of in bunches.