

Australian Grasses

There are a number of locally occurring grasses and grassland plants that make a statement in gardens and parks.

Many of these grasses are low maintenance, bird-attracting and easy to grow.

Grassland plant communities are among the most endangered in Australia.

Here is a list of grasses and associated plants to help you create your own Canberra grassland.

<i>Joycea pallida</i>	Red Anther Wallaby Grass	1m x 80cm
<i>Austrodanthonia caespitosa</i>	Common Wallaby Grass	90cm x 50cm
<i>Austrodanthonia linkii</i>	Wallaby Grass	40cm x 40cm
<i>Austrodanthonia carphoides</i>	Short Wallaby Grass	10cm x 10cm
<i>Austrodanthonia racemosa</i>	Striped Wallaby Grass	80cm x 60cm
<i>Dichelachne crinata</i>	Plume Grass	1m x 50cm
<i>Microlaena stipoides</i>	Weeping Grass	20cm x 50cm
<i>Poa labillardieri</i>	Common Tussock grass	1m x 1m
<i>Poa sieberiana</i>	Grey Tussock Grass	60cm x 60cm
<i>Stipa scabra</i>	Rough Speargrass	60cm x 40cm
* <i>Themeda australis</i>	Kangaroo Grass	50cm x 40cm

Most of these grasses have an Autumn/Winter growing period, which means:

- You can regenerate the tussocks by cutting them back hard every autumn, or by burning them (only once in a few years).
- If planting the winter growers through autumn and winter, vigorous growth will result.
- Some species will become dormant in the summer. To keep these grasses looking good through this period, water regularly, and use a garden rake to "comb" the old brown grass from the tussock.

Species marked with an asterisk (*) grow actively through the summer, so you can rejuvenate them in spring by cutting or burning.



Associated plants (for planting amongst your grasses for year-round colour)

<i>Arthropodium milleflorum</i>	Vanilla Lily	20cm
<i>Brachyscome basaltica</i>	Basalt Daisy	40cm
<i>Brachyscome multifida</i>	Rock Daisy	30cm x 60cm
<i>Bulbine bulbosa</i>	Native Leek	30cm x 30cm
<i>Calocephalus citreus</i>	Lemon Beauty-heads	30cm
<i>Chrysocephalum semipapposum</i>	Clustered Everlasting	60cm
<i>Chrysocephalum apiculatum</i>	Yellow Buttons	20cm x 60cm
<i>Dianella revoluta</i>	Flax-lily	70cm x 60cm
<i>Eryngium ovinum</i>	Blue Devil	30cm x 30cm
<i>Kennedia prostrata</i>	Running Postman	5cm x 1m
<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	Mat-Rush	1m x 80cm
<i>Pelargonium rodneyanum</i>	Magenta Stork's-bill	20cm x 30cm
<i>Wahlenbergia communis</i>	Tufted Bluebell	50cm x 40cm

These low-lying, tufting or groundcover plants look fantastic among grasses, and, once established, require little attention.

A light trim after flowering and mulching around the root zone is beneficial to the health and vigour of your plants.

A tip:

Wander through some of Canberra's grassland areas for inspiration. Look at how the plants are dispersed, and which plants and grasses look good together.

The grassland area inside the entrance of the National Botanic Gardens is a good source of inspiration.

