Native bunchgrasses can be used as single specimen or accent plants in native landscaping designs. The bunchgrasses will remain in clumps (not spread by rhizomes) but may spread with seed shatter. If the site utilizes weed barrier and mulching (wood chips, bark, or rock) there may not be much new seedling development for several years.

Native bunchgrasses add a unique aesthetic value to a landscape that is visible all year long. Species such as little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), big bluestem (*Andropogan gerardii*) and switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*) turn reddish to purple in the fall and are attractive all winter. Species such as Indian ricegrass (*Achnatherum hymenoides* aka *Oryzopsis hymenoides*) provide a nutritious seed for many songbirds. Other attractive native bunchgrasses include blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*), sideoats grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*), basin wildrye (*Leymus cinereus* aka *Elymus cinereus*), rough fescue (*Festuca scabrella campestris*), bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata* aka *Agropyron spicatum*), tufted hairgrass (*Deschampsia caespitosa*) and Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*).

Potted plants of species presently available through some Montana nurseries include switchgrass, bluebunch wheatgrass, little bluestem, basin wildrye, blue grama, and Indian ricegrass. If demand increases for all these species, the nursery industry will no doubt respond. Many Montana nurseries are trying to meet the increasing demand for native landscaping species.
Native Specimen/Accent Bunchgrasses

little bluestem
*Schizachyrium scoparium*

big bluestem
*Andropogon gerardii*

Indian ricegrass
*Achnatherum hymenoides*
(aka *Oryzopsis hymenoides*)

blue grama
*Bouteloua gracilis*
Native Specimen/Accent Grasses

- **switchgrass**
  *Panicum virgatum*

- **basin wildrye**
  *Leymus cinereus*  
  (aka *Elymus cinereus*)

- **rough fescue**
  *Festuca scabrella campestris*

- **Idaho fescue**
  *Festuca idahoensis*
Native Specimen/Accent Bunchgrasses

bluebunch wheatgrass
*Pseudoroegneria spicata*
(aka *Agropyron spicatum*)

tufted hairgrass
*Deschampsia caespitosa*

sideoats grama
*Bouteloua curtipendula*