

### What is it that characterizes a grass?

“It is the structure of the plant. All grasses have stems with solid joints and two-ranked leaves, one at each point. The leaf consists of two parts, the sheath, which fits around the stem like a split tube, and the blade, which commonly is long and narrow. No other plant family has this structure.”

— Agnes Chase

**Ligule** —The junction of the sheath and blade that functions as an appendage.

## For More Information

Field guide to the Grasses, Sedges, and Rushes of the United States. Edward Knobel. New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1977.

First Book of Grasses. Agnes Chase. Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institute Press, 1959 and 1964.

Manual of the Grasses of the United States. A. S. Hitchcock. New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1971.

Grasses, An Identification Guide. Lauren Brown. New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1979.

<http://www.knps.org/botanylinks.htm>

## Contact Us

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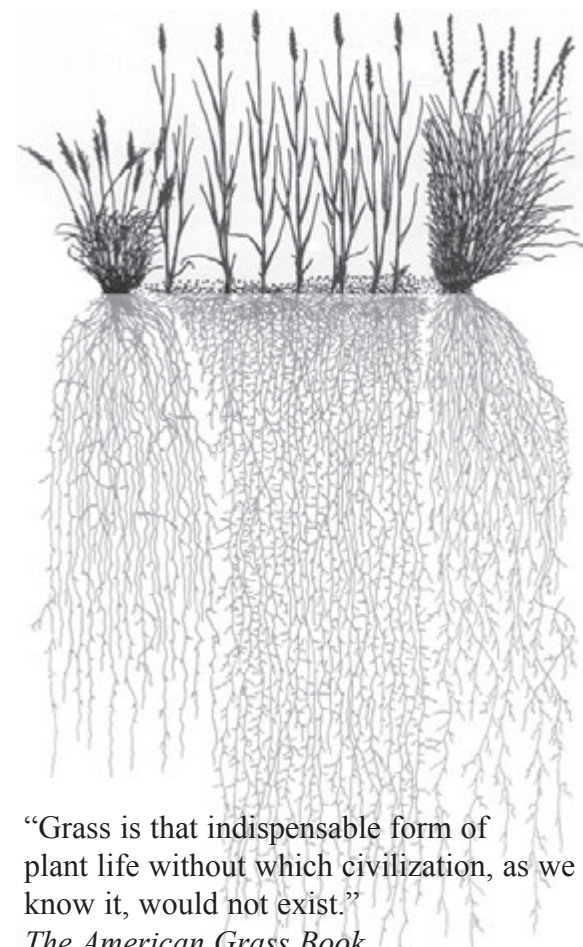
<http://www.uky.edu/Arboretum>

The Arboretum is open 365 days a year from dawn to dusk. Admission is free. The Dorothea Smith Oatts Visitors Center is open M-F from 8:30 to 4:00.

Funding for brochures provided by Kentucky Division of Forestry.



## Native Grasses at The Arboretum



“Grass is that indispensable form of plant life without which civilization, as we know it, would not exist.”

*The American Grass Book.*

— Sellers Archer and Clarence Bunch (1953)

# Grasslands Are Important Too!

“Of all plants the grasses are the most important to man. All our breadstuffs-corn, wheat oats, rye, barley, rice, and sugarcane are grasses, others are ornamentals, forage crops, weeds, and even building materials.”

— Edward Knobel

To most people, an Arboretum is all about the nurturing of trees. Actually, The Arboretum tries to cultivate a respect for a wide range of plant life. Even though The Arboretum’s tree collection has received much attention, efforts are now underway to increase the representation of important and interesting grass species.

The map on the right represents the more common native grass species that you can find at The Arboretum. Some grasses grow in groupings with wildflowers, such as in the Pennyrile Prairie. Others can be found growing in the shade of The Arboretum Woods, and even in the organic soils of The Wetlands.

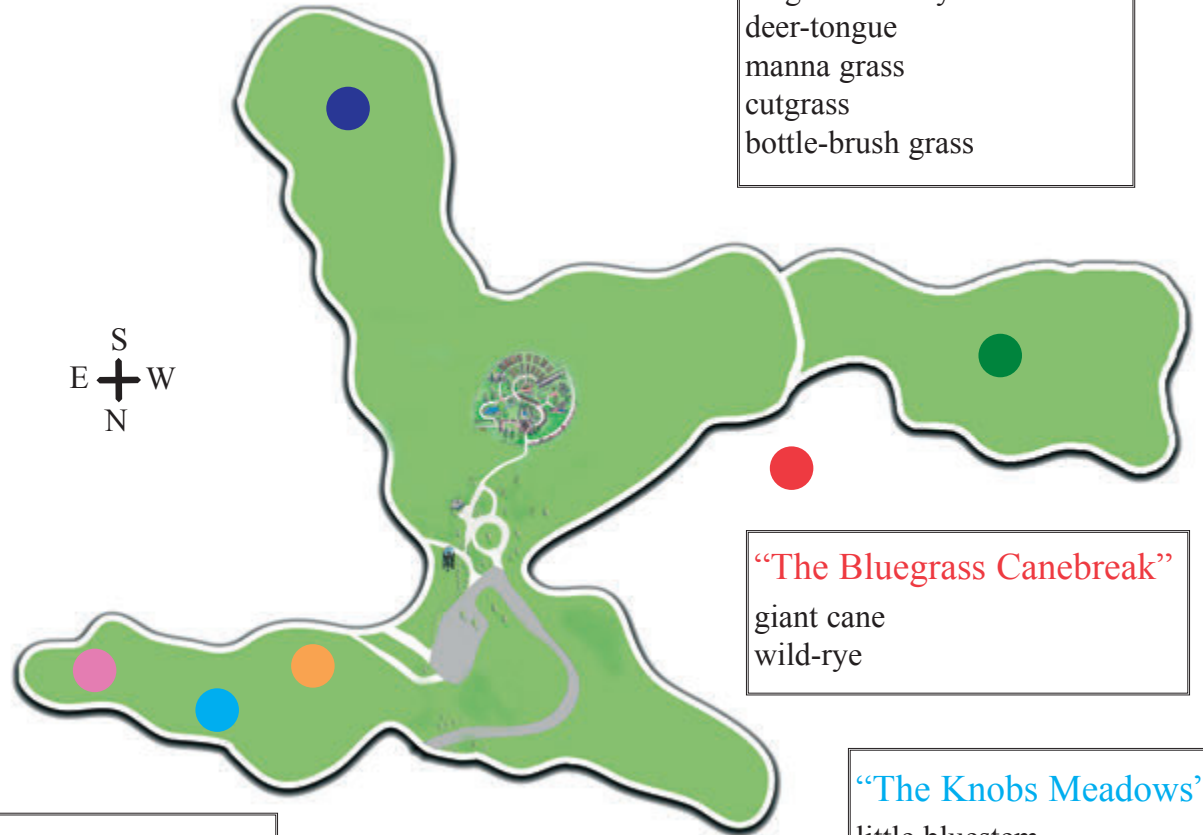
The Arboretum plans to add new species in the future such as: purple love grass, junegrass, hairgrass, cord grass, bluejoint, poverty grass, and wild rice.

## Other Grasses in the meadows

purpletop  
nimblewill  
broom-sedge  
plume grass

## “The Arboretum Woods”

silky wild-rye  
Macgregor’s wild-rye  
Virginia wild-rye  
deer-tongue  
manna grass  
cutgrass  
bottle-brush grass



## “The Bluegrass Canebreak”

giant cane  
wild-rye

## “Pennyrile Prairie”

little bluestem  
Elliot’s broome-sedge  
split-beard bluestem  
three-awn  
prairie dropseed  
tall dropseed  
indian grass  
bushy bluestem

## “The Arboretum Prairie”

eastern gamagrass  
switch grass  
indian grass  
big bluestem  
side-oats grama  
little bluestem

## “The Knobs Meadows”

little bluestem  
indian grass  
Elliot’s broomesedge  
tall dropseed  
Virginia wild rye  
river oats