

Shade grasses  
for DEER areas

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Plant Name	Height & Spread	Evergreen or Deciduous	Description	Photo
<b>Variegated Sweetflag</b> <i>Acorus gramineus</i> 'Ogon'  	8-12 inches tall 8-12 inches wide  	Semi-evergreen  Hardy to 0 degrees	Bright yellow variegated foliage is sweetly fragrant when bruised. Tiny yellow-green flowers in summer give way to small, reddish berries.  <b>Deer rating: 9/10</b>	
<b>Mondo Grass</b> <i>Ophiopogon japonicus</i>	10-12 inches tall 1-2 feet wide  	Evergreen  Hardy to 10 degrees	Dark green arching blades. Forms dense mound. Purple flower spikes in summer followed by purple berries in fall.  <b>Deer rating: 10/10</b>	
<b>Black Mondo Grass</b> <i>Ophiopogon japonicus</i> 'Nigra'	10-12 inches tall 1-2 feet wide  	Evergreen  Hardy to 10 degrees	Unique, purple-black arching blades. Forms dense mound. Lavender flower spikes in summer followed by purple berries in fall.  <b>Deer rating: 10/10</b>	

<p><b>Royal Purple Lily Turf</b> <i>Liriope muscari 'Royal Purple'</i></p> 	<p>12-18 inches tall 12-18 inches wide</p> 	<p>Evergreen</p> <p>Hardy to 0 degrees</p>	<p>Grass-like green blades year-round. Spikes of deep purple flowers rise above foliage in summer. <b>Also available variegated with green and white blades – Liriope 'Silvery Sunproof'</b></p> <p><b>Deer rating: 9/10</b></p>	
<p><b>Gold Band Sedge</b> <i>Carex 'Gold Band'</i></p> 	<p>12-18 inches tall 1-2 feet wide</p> 	<p>Evergreen</p> <p>Hardy to 0 degrees</p>	<p>Narrow, deep green blades variegated with golden margins which fade to white. Brownish flower spikes in summer are short-lived and inconspicuous.</p> <p><b>Deer rating: 10/10</b></p>	
<p><b>Japanese Forest Grass</b> <i>Hakonechloa macra 'All Gold'</i></p>	<p>1-2 feet tall 1-2 feet wide</p> <p><b>Considered fire resistant if watered regularly</b></p>	<p>Deciduous, melts to ground for winter</p> <p>Hardy to 0 degrees</p>	<p>Attractive, graceful grass with bright yellow foliage. Tall and arching habit. <b>Also available with green/yellow blades (Hakonechloa 'Aureola'), or as just green (Hakonechloa macra')</b></p> <p><b>Deer rating: 10/10</b></p>	
<p><b>Everillo Sedge</b> <i>Carex 'Everillo'</i></p> 	<p>1-2 feet tall 1-2 feet wide</p> 	<p>Evergreen</p> <p>Hardy to 0 degrees</p>	<p>Lime green foliage matures to bright, golden yellow. In sunnier spots, yellow intensifies. In extreme shade, foliage is more chartreuse. Nice pop of color in shade garden.</p> <p><b>Deer rating: 10/10</b></p>	

<p><b>Dwarf Mat Rush</b> <i>Lomandra longifolia</i> 'Breeze'</p> 	<p>2-3 feet tall 3-4 feet wide</p>	<p>Evergreen</p> <p>Hardy to 20 degrees</p>	<p>Grass-like perennial with fine, bright green, arching foliage. Small, fragrant, yellow flower spikes in spring. <i>Does best in warmer micro-climates (a cold winter may make it die back a bit).</i></p> <p><b>Deer rating: 9/10</b></p>	
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→ this symbol indicates plants that can survive drought once established. It typically takes 1-2 years of regular water for a new plant to be established. In general, plants look better with regular water, but drought-tolerant plants can survive times when water is not available.



→ this symbol indicates plants that are considered fire-wise, meaning that they are more resistant to wildfire due to their growth habits. Plants with this symbol were found online in lists of 'fire safe' plants.

## California Native Options ↓

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Plant Name	Height & Spread	Evergreen or Deciduous	Description	Photo
<p><b>Creeping Red Fescue</b> <i>Festuca rubra</i> 'Molate'</p> 	<p>12-18 inches tall 12-18 inches wide</p> 	<p>Evergreen</p> <p>Hardy to 0 degrees or below</p>	<p>Soft, flowing drifts of blue-grey-green foliage. Buff colored flower spikes rise 2-3 feet high in summer. Can be mowed to 2 inches tall.</p> <p><b>Deer rating: 10/10</b></p>	
<p><b>Purple Needlegrass</b> <i>Stipa pulchra</i></p> 	<p>1-3 feet tall 1-2 feet wide</p> 	<p>Deciduous</p> <p>Hardy to 5 degrees</p>	<p>Bunch grass with blades that are bright green up close, appear grey from a distance. Airy cream flowers with hints of purple in late summer. Drought-tolerant once established.</p> <p><b>Deer rating: 10/10</b></p>	

<p><b>California Gray Rush</b> <i>Juncus patens</i></p> 	<p>2-3 feet tall 2-3 feet wide</p> 	<p>Evergreen</p> <p>Hardy to 15 degrees</p>	<p>Thin, rounded, grey-green leafless stems. Inconspicuous golden-brown flower clusters below the leaf tips from spring to fall. Very tough – can grow in very dry or very wet area.</p> <p><b>Deer rating: 9/10</b></p>	
<p><b>Deer Grass</b> <i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i></p> 	<p>2-3 feet tall 2-3 feet wide</p>	<p>Semi-evergreen</p> <p>Hardy to 5 degrees</p>	<p>Dense clump of slender arching green blades. Tan flower spikes above foliage in fall. Plumes can reach 5 feet tall. Drought-tolerant once established.</p> <p><b>Deer rating: 10/10</b></p>	