

Guide for Cutting-Back Common Ornamental Grasses

<u>Botanic/Common Name</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Height</u>	<u>Comments</u>
<i>Calamagrostis x. 'Karl Foerster'</i> Feather Reed Grass	Annual	February	6 inches	
<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i> Tufted Hair Grass	Annual	February	3 inches	
<i>Festuca californica</i> California Fescue	Annual	February	6 inches	
<i>Helictotrichon sempervirens</i> Blue Oat Grass	3-6 years as needed	February	3 inches	Comb through foliage w/ rubber gloved hand to remove dead leaves
<i>Juncus patens</i> California Gray Rush	3-4 years as needed	February	1 inch	Comb through foliage w/ rubber gloved hand to remove dead leaves
<i>Miscanthus sinensis</i> Silver Grass	Annual	Nov.-Jan.	6 inches	
<i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i> Deer Grass	3-4 years as needed	Jan.-Feb.	6 inches	Do not cut back vigorous plants
<i>Nassella tenuissima</i> Mexican Feather Grass	3-4 years as needed	Sept.	3 inches	

This Guide is compiled from numerous sources of variable authority and is not infallible. It is intended solely for use in Central California. Never cut back grasses in late Spring or Summer and cut them flat at the proper height. If the goal of management is a neat little ball, the grass should be replaced with a plant that tolerates that sort of thing.

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