

# Indian Grass

*Sorghastrum nutans*

Minnesota C-Value: 5  
Wetland Indicator Status: FACU+  
Native



**Leaves:** 60 cm long and 1 cm wide, narrowing at the base. Strongly keeled midrib. Distinctive ligule at the base of the leaf blade, shaped like rabbit ears.

**Stems:** 3 - 8 ft tall and unbranched, with slightly swollen nodes.

**Flowers and fruit:** Golden-brown spikelets are fuzzy and awned. Panicle is tall and narrow, up to 14 inches long. Blooms late summer to early fall.

**Plant communities:** Tall grass prairies, wet-mesic to dry-mesic prairies. Can handle occasional flooding and repeated burning.

**Comments:** Perennial. Can be confused with big bluestem before it flowers. Indian grass can be distinguished by its hairless leaf that tapers at the base, and rabbit ear auricles.