



#### Caption

Indian Grass

*Sorghastrum nutans*

*Sorghastrum nutans*, commonly called Indian grass, is one of the dominant grasses of the tallgrass prairie that once covered large parts of the Midwest. It grows 3-8 feet tall and with slender, blue-green leaves that turn orange-yellow in fall.

Stiff flowering stems, topped with narrow, feathery, light brown flowers rise above the foliage clump in late summer. The blooming period occurs from late summer to early autumn. The plant is wind pollinated.

Several species of grasshoppers feed on Indian Grass. These grasshoppers are an important source of food to many songbirds and upland gamebirds. Its height and tendency to remain erect, provides nesting habitat and protective cover for many birds, including the Ring-necked Pheasant, Mourning Dove, and Field Sparrow.

#### Resources

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=g780>

[http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/grasses/plants/ind\\_grass.htm](http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/grasses/plants/ind_grass.htm)

[https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id\\_plant=SONU2](https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=SONU2)