



Cultivar Comparison: *Carex* from New Zealand & Elsewhere

Carex from New Zealand

New Zealand *Carex* add zest and interest to landscapes and container plantings. The bronze-copper colored varieties look best when contrasted with rich-greens and yellows or hardscapes. This chart explains some of their great features.

Name	Height	Foliage	Features	Zone	Exposure	Moisture
<i>C. buchananii</i> 'Red Rooster' Red Rooster	2'	Copper-bronze cinnamon, fine textured	Upright vase shape adds structural element; combines well with contrasting-colored plants	7-9	Sun	Moist (well-drained soil)
<i>C. comans</i> 'Amazon Mist' Amazon Mist	14"	Mint green, dusty white underside, fine foliage	Narrow foliage creates swirls of mint green, movement, and texture	7-9	Sun	Average
<i>C. comans</i> 'Bronze' New Zealand Hair Sedge	15"	Bronze, narrow foliage	Narrow foliage trails and arches, beautiful in containers; maintains color year round	7-9	Sun-Part shade	Average
<i>C. testacea</i> 'Prairie Fire' Prairie Fire Sedge	15-18"	Green-bronze, orange highlights, narrow foliage	Dramatic display of fiery oranges; seasonal appeal in October; fine texture	5-9	Sun	Moist

Carex from Europe and Africa

Carex from other parts of the world bring color to the landscape—blues, yellows, and greens—and several are drought tolerant and adaptable. See their distinguishing qualities at a glance with the chart below.

Name	Height	Foliage	Features	Zone	Exposure	Moisture
<i>C. divulsa</i> Grassland Sedge	1.5'	Green, narrow, clumping habit	Graceful ground cover or lawn alternative; takes heat and humidity; can thrive under trees	5-9	Sun-Part shade	Dry-Moist
<i>C. elata</i> 'Aurea' Bowles' Golden Sedge	2'	Bright green with yellow (chartreuse)	Spectacular bright color for wet areas and water gardens; grows in up to 3" of water	5-8	Shade-Sun	Wet
<i>C. flacca</i> Blue Sedge	8-10"	Gray blue, narrow	Low-growing groundcover; drought tolerant; adds fine texture; controls erosion	4-8	Sun-Part shade	Dry
<i>C. flacca</i> 'Blue Zinger' Blue Zinger Sedge	8-10"	Blue-green, narrow	Adaptable, drought tolerant, attractive; spreads slowly by rhizomes; ground cover	4-8	Sun-Part shade	Dry

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