

THE FLINT HILLS – ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEXT:

WARM SEASON TALLGRASSES & ROOT SYSTEMS

Quotation at top: “In the end we will conserve only what we love. We will love only what we understand. We will understand only what we are taught.” – Baba Dioum. Conservationist, Senegal.

LITTLE BLUESTEM

- Height: 2-4 feet
- Short stems grow in a clump
- Seed heads are fuzzy
- Plants turn red after frost
- Our Kansas State Grass!

BIG BLUESTEM

- Height: 2-9 feet
- Tall slender stems
- Seed heads
 - usually have three spikes
 - look like a turkey’s foot

SWITCHGRASS

- Height: 2-6 feet
- Seed heads
 - are pyramid-shaped
 - are open and airy
 - have branches like a tree

INDIANGRASS

- Height: 3-7 feet
- Seed heads are
 - beautiful golden color
 - long, thick, shaped like a feather

ROOT SYSTEMS

- Each year plants grow back from an underground web of roots
- Root systems can reach 8-12 feet deep
- Deep roots help grasses survive extreme heat, cold, drought, and flood
- Grasses spread through seeds and rhizomes in their roots