



*Bamboo-like leaves*

## Planting Tips:

Propagate with seeds or divide the roots. This plant needs moist soil (well-drained) and fairs well along the edges of water gardens and streams. This plant tolerates poor soil and grows well in partial sun/shade.

## Habitat:

River oats are frequently found along water edges.

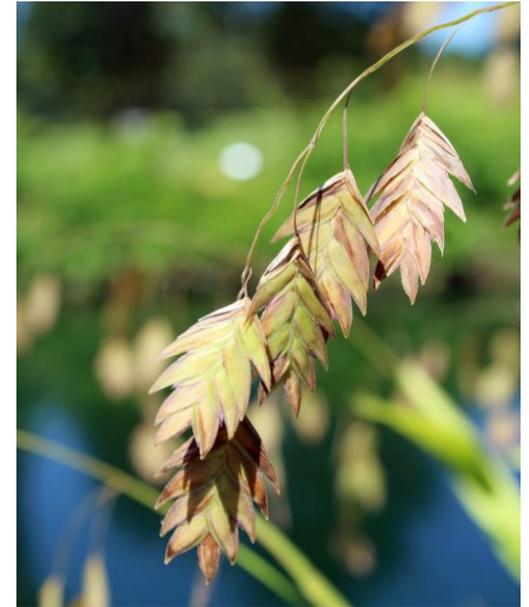
## Visitor Education Center (VEC)

### About Us

The Visitor Education Center (VEC) at the North Mississippi Fish Hatchery is the first and only facility of its kind in Mississippi. It is owned and operated by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks.

In addition to the native habitat area, the VEC features a 10,000 gallon aquarium, interactive exhibits, displays, artifacts, fishing rodeo pond, gift shop and gallery, and the World Record White Crappie. All of these elements serve as entertaining and engaging learning experiences for all visitors.

The VEC promotes the sport of freshwater fishing in Mississippi, and encourages the conservation and stewardship of aquatic resources. The facility offers guided and self-guided tours along with a myriad of programs and workshops for the public.



*River oats*

## MISSISSIPPI NATIVE: RIVER OATS

*(Chasmanthium  
latifolium)*

**NMFH Visitor  
Education Center**

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*Green oats*

## Description/Size:

This woodland grass grows upright and forms clumps. It has bamboo-like green leaves that turn yellow/gold in the fall before changing to a brown color during the winter. The river oats plant has seed heads forming from slender arching branches. The seeds are heavier than the branches, which causes the seeds to dangle from drooping branches.

River Oats reach 24 to 48 inches in height, and clumps may grow 24 to 30 inches in width.

## Season:

This perennial has seed heads, which appear in the middle of the summer and ripen at the end of summer/beginning of fall (September – October). These stay on the plant through the winter months (December – January).

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### *Other Names:*

*Wild Oats, Indian Wood Oats, Flathead Oats, Inland Sea Oats, and Upland Sea Oats.*

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*Brown oats*



*River oats plant*

## Interesting Facts:

This plant attracts songbirds, and it is used frequently in cut flower arrangements. It spreads quickly, thus is used for controlling soil erosion. When seed heads are brown, the wind through the seeds causes a “rustling” sound.



Information Sources: Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, MSU Extension, Clemson.edu, USDA, and VEC Staff. Pictures taken at the VEC (Wiggins, E.J.); property of MDWFP.