**Chasmanthium latifolium** (Michx.) Yates
Inland sea oats, Indian wood oats, Wild oats, River oats, Flathead oats, Upland Oats, Upland Sea Oats
Poaceae (Grass Family)
Synonyms: *Uniola latifolia*
USDA Symbol: CHLA5
USDA Native Status: Native to U.S.

This is a 2-4 ft., clump-forming, perennial grass bearing large, drooping, oat-like flower spikelets from slender, arching branches. The blue-green, bamboo-like leaves often turn a bright yellow-gold, especially in sunnier sites, in fall.

Very popular as a low-maintenance shade grass, Inland sea oats is notable for its large, graceful seedheads. Sending up blue-green basal leaves in earliest spring, it can be 2 feet tall and a vivid green by May, with translucent green seedheads swaying in the breeze. By mid-summer, the seeds will have turned an attractive ivory and will turn brown in a few months before dropping off. It passes through most of winter a soft brown, but becomes tattered and gray by February, a good time to cut it back to the basal rosette. It reseeds easily and can expand aggressively within a couple of years, making a solid mat in moist loams. It has been used to prevent soil erosion along streams. The seed stalks are attractive in flower arrangements.

### PLANT CHARACTERISTICS
- **Duration:** Perennial
- **Habit:** Grass/Grass-like
- **Root Type:** Fibrous
- **Leaf Retention:** Deciduous
- **Leaf Arrangement:** Alternate
- **Leaf Complexity:** Simple
- **Leaf Venation:** Parallel
- **Inflorescence:** Spikelet
- **Fruit Type:** Caryopsis
- **Size Notes:** 2 to 4 feet tall
- **Leaf:** Green
- **Flower:**
- **Fruit:** Tan
- **Size Class:** 3-6 ft.

### BLOOM INFORMATION
- **Bloom Color:** Green
- **Bloom Time:** Jun, Jul, Aug, Sep

### DISTRIBUTION
**USA:** AL, AR, AZ, DC, DE, FL, GA, IA, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MD, MI, MO, MS, NC, NJ, NM, OH, OK, PA, SC, TN, TX, VA, WI, WV
**Native Distribution:** PA to s. IL & e. KS, s. to n. FL, e. TX, and Nuevo Leon
**Native Habitat:** Shaded slopes; low thickets; stream banks
**USDA Native Status:** L48(N)

### GROWING CONDITIONS
- **Water Use:** Medium
- **Light Requirement:** Part Shade, Shade
- **Soil Moisture:** Moist
- **Soil pH:** Acidic (pH<6.8)
- **CaCO3 Tolerance:** Low
- **Soil Description:** Moist sands, loams, and clays. Poorly drained okay.

**Conditions Comments:** Avoid planting in continuous full sun, as its leaves turn yellowish without adequate shade. The more water it receives, the more tolerant it will be of intense sun, but it still prefers shade.

### BENEFIT
- **Use Ornamental:** An attractive, dense-covering grass for shade, with decorative seedheads. Also good in pots.
- **Use Wildlife:** Seeds eaten by small mammals and granivorous birds. Leaves provide graze for mammals. Stems and leaves used as nesting material by birds.
- **Use Other:** Cut seed stalks decorative in dried arrangements.
- **Interesting Foliage:** yes

**Attracts:** Butterflies
**Larval Host:** Pepper & salt skipper butterfly, Bells road side skipper butterfly, Bronzed roadside skipper butterfly

**Deer Resistant:** High

**PROPAGATION**

**Propagation Material:** Root Division, Seeds

**Description:** Propagate by seed or root division.

**Seed Collection:** Collect seed in fall.

**Seed Treatment:** Germinates and grows easily at any time.

**Commercially Avail:** yes

**Maintenance:** For a neat appearance, cut dead stalks back to the basal rosette in mid- to late winter. If leaves exceed 2 feet tall by spring and you'd like to keep it shorter, cut them in half in May or June (Texas schedule). If a colony expands too aggressively, remove unwanted clumps. Very easy to transplant them.

**SOURCE:** [http://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=CHLA5](http://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=CHLA5)