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The authors discuss the results of a study carried out at Dehradun during 1993-94 to assess the conservation efficiencies of five grass species in bouldery riverbed lands. Among various grasses, Saccharum munja showed best performance with respect to clump diameter, lateral root spread, vertical root length, total number of roots, oven dry root and aerial biomass while other species showed their differential response for different root and shoot parameters. In general, the percentage root biomass decreased with increasing soil depth in all the species. Though the total root biomass was one of the lowest in Eulaliopsis binata, it was

maximum in upper soil horizon (0-30 cm), however, the trend was reverse in case of S.munja. The soil binding value was also the highest in S.munja (307.2) followed by Panicum maximum (254.3), E.binata (222.6), Chrysopogon fulvus (156.9) and minimum in Arundo