

## **Ornamental Grasses**

Ornamental grasses are attractive landscape plants that can give gardens a new look.

### **Desirable traits include:**

- Very few insect or disease problems
- Low nutrient requirements. Rarely need fertilization or irrigation after establishment, except in case of extreme drought or very sandy soil.
- Little maintenance once established. In early spring cut grass back to ground to remove the previous year's growth. If not cut back new growth is delayed and the plants look messy and half dead late into the growing season.
- More than one season of interest; flowering in spring, summer, or fall, with beauty and color lasting into winter
- Fast growth; for example, some large plants grow 5 to 8 feet tall by the second year
- Varied textures, from fine fescues to coarse giant miscanthus
- Foliage colors of blue, yellow, bronze, and red, as well as variegated white and yellow
- Movement with the wind, which provides interesting sounds as well as beauty.

Andropogon

### **BIG BLUESTEM**

Height 4-7 ft. full sun clump forming

A native North American prairie grass forming a large clump of silvery-blue foliage. The purplish flower spikes emerge in August and September.

Bouteloua

### **BLONDA AMBITION**

Height 2-3 ft. full sun clump forming

Chartreuse flowers contrast beautifully with blue-grey leaf blades. Flowers mature to blonde seed heads for added fall and winter interest. This plant is great for uses of erosion control, mass planting, and floral arrangements.

Calamagrostis Varieties

### **AVLANCHE FEATHER REED GRASS**

Height 3-4 ft. full sun clump forming

Upright growth habit with beautiful variegated foliage. A wide white center to the leaf. It holds its variegation through the heat of the summer. Once established it is quite drought tolerant.

### **FALL BLOOMING FEATHER REED**

Height 2-3 ft. full sun to part shade clump forming

Warm season grass that adds interest to the autumn landscape. In September elegant flowers appear with a touch of pink later turning to bronze. Appreciates evenly moist soil.

### **KARL FOERSTER GRASS**

Height 4-5 ft. sun or part shade clump forming

Bright green foliage forms attractive mounds. Graceful, wheat-like pink flowers July turning beige in August. Non-invasive. Will not re-seed.

### **OVERDAM GRASS**

Height 3-4 ft. sun to part shade clump forming

Very attractive variegated green foliage. Upright growth habit, narrow clumps. White flower heads fade to rose-pink.

Calamagrostis brachytrica

### **KOREAN FEATHER REED**

Height 4 ft. part sun to full shade spreading form

Feathery pink-tinge plumes maturing in fall to light tan and cream. Performs in variety of settings including moist soils.

Carex

**BLUE ZINGER SEDGE**

Height 8-16 in. full sun to full shade clumping form

Improvement over the species with bluer foliage in an upright habit. Tolerant of a range of soil conditions once established. Great for border or mass plantings.

Deschampsia

**PIXIE FOUNTAIN**

Height 1-2 ft. part sun to part shade clumping form

An easy growing, hardy, fine-textured grass. Tolerating sunny to shaded garden areas great for mass planting, small containers and gardens.

**TUFTED HAIR GRASS**

Height 3 ft. sun to part shade clump forming

A cool season, evergreen grass that is hardy in Zone 4. Normally found in moist, boggy sites, and will do best in a moist site in partial shade. Produces delicate flowers in June that rise 2 ft. above the plant and remain showy into the winter.

Erianthus Ravennae

**HARDY PAMPAS GRASS**

Height 8-10 ft. full sun clump forming

Showy, 2 ft. long silvery-white silky plumes in early fall. Gorgeous fall coloring. Fast growing. Great specimen, screen or accent plant.

Festuca

**BOULDER BLUE FESCUE GRASS**

Height 8 in. full sun clump forming

Forms a beautiful little clump of upright foliage in shades of metallic blue. Tan seed heads rise 6 in. above clump in summer. Best in well-drained soils

Festuca

**ELIJAH BLUE FESCUE GRASS**

Height 6-10 in. full sun clump forming

Small with attractive fine-textured blue foliage. A cool season grass. Grown for the foliage. In hot spells may brown out but revives with the onset of cooler weather.

Hakonechloa macra 'Aureola'

**GOLDEN VARIEGATED HAKONE GRASS**

Height 14 inches full sun to part shade

Brilliant yellow variegated foliage. Provides vivid highlights in shaded areas or evening gardens. Partial shade in warmer climates while more sun is suitable in cooler areas.

Helictrotrichon Sempervirens

**SAPPHIRE BLUE OAT GRASS**

Height 30 in. full sun clump forming

Bright steel blue foliage with flowers in early summer on long arching stems. Perfect dome shaped clumps.

It prefers cooler weather and adequate moisture for the root system.

Miscanthus Varieties

**FIRE DRAGON**

Height 6-7 ft. full sun clumping form

Warm season grass with a show-stopping upright habit. Silver plumes dance above the fiery foliage which intensify to hues of red and orange in fall.

### **FLAME GRASS**

Height 4-5 ft. sun to part shade clump forming

A warm season grass. Has magenta colored foliage in late summer. Upright grower. In fall leaves color to a bright red orange before fading to a silken white in winter. Silver-pink seed heads. A ten-year-old specimen can be 30" or more across.

### **GRAZIELLA GRASS**

Height 4-6 ft. full sun clump forming

Large arching mound of foliage. Orange-red color in autumn. Silvery white plumes

### **PORCUPINE GRASS**

Height 5-7 ft. full sun clump forming

Horizontal yellow and green striped leaves. Very upright and clump forming. Will grow in shallow ponds.

### **RED-SILVER JAPANESE SILVER GRASS**

Height 5-7' full sun clump forming

Outstanding red tones in both foliage and the flowers. Forms a tall, arching mound of green foliage with red tints. Large pinkish-red flowers in mid to late summer. Fall color on this plant is gorgeous, with the foliage tuning a beautiful red.

### **VARIEGATED SILVER FEATHER GRASS**

Height 5-7 ft. full sun clump forming

Wide leaves with a white stripe. It forms a large, arching mound. Flowers in late summer or early fall, first with some tints of red but maturing to fluffy white.

Panicum virgatum varieties

### **HOT ROD**

Height 3-4 ft. full to part sun clump forming

Compact, drought and salt tolerant with gorgeous height. Foliage turns red earlier than Shenandoah. Perfect winter habitat for birds.

### **NORTHWIND SWITCH GRASS**

Height 6 ft. full sun clump forming

A newer panicum with very sturdy upright, steel blue stems. Great in mass plantings or as a single specimen.

### **PRAIRIE SKY GRASS**

Height 4-5 ft. full sun clump forming

A switch grass with incredible blue tones. Silver pink flowers in late summer.

### **SHENANDOAH SWITCH GRASS**

Height 3 ft. full sun clump forming

What really sets this grass apart from other cultivars is the incredible red hues to the leaves, making it stand out in the garden. Foliage and blooms began to color up by June. It is bound to be a winner. Likes well-drained soils.

Pennisetum Varieties

### **HAMELN DWARF FOUNTAIN**

Height 24-30 in. full sun clump forming

Buff-colored flower heads are profuse in late summer. Great for mass plantings and add structure to the winter garden and seed for birds. Drought tolerant, insect and disease resistant.

**LITTLE BUNNY**

Height 10-12 in. full sun clump forming

Drought tolerant once established. Great contrast for border, foundation, and rock gardens. Foliage turns golden russet in fall.

Schizachyrium Varieties

**BLUE HEAVEN**

Height 3-4 ft. full sun clumping form

Great vertical accent for border planting. Emerging blue foliage develops pink and burgundy hues in late summer with copper fall color. Drought tolerant, bird friendly.

**LITTLE BLUESTEM**

Height 30 in. full sun clumping form

Native American prairie grass. After frost, leaves turn orange-wheat color.

**THE BLUES LITTLE BLUESTEM**

Height 3 ft. full sun clump forming

Fantastic blue leaves through summer which intensify into deep burgundy red tones in the cool autumn weather.

Sporobolus heterolepis

**PRAIRIE DROPSEED GRASS**

Height 2-3 ft. full sun clump forming

This Native American prairie plant forms a beautiful upright, arching clump. Slow growing, but worth the wait. The emerald green foliage is fine-textured. The flowers appear in August, the 6-8" panicles rise over 2-3' above the foliage and have a sweet fragrance. Once the seed ripens, they droop over. In autumn, the plant turns a golden yellow, sometimes with orange hues, and then the entire plant turns a light brown for the winter months. Extremely heat and drought tolerant.

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