



Grasses add a graceful flow to perennial beds and foundation plantings. They contribute interesting contrast in form and texture, and they make their presence known long after other flowering plants have bloomed or faded.

Grasses provide winter interest as well as seed tidbits for birds. Cut back to the ground in early spring.

Bloodgrass (*Imperata cylindrica*): Blood grass has vertical foliage and makes an interesting addition to any garden. Upright slender leaves are green below and red on top. The red coloring intensifies towards fall. Blood grass prefers full sun. Height varies between 12–18”.

Feather Red Grass (*Calamagrostis*): With fine, textured and narrow leaves, this group makes a statement in the garden. Narrow upright columns of foliage are topped in late summer by fluffy, delicate-looking flowers. *Calamagrostis* requires full sun but may tolerate partial sun. Height varies from 5–7’ depending on variety. This species tolerates both dry and wet sites.

- “Karl Foerster” — Green, graceful foliage; height 4–5’, width 2–3’.
- “Overdam” — Variegated foliage; height 4–5’, width 2–3’.

“Carex:” A short group of sedges which form tufts or clumps of slender blades. *Carex* requires part sun to light shade; height varies depending on variety (12–24”).

- “Evergold” — Stripes creamy yellow and green foliage; height 12–18”, width 12–18”.
- “Silver Sculptor” — White variegation; height 12”, width 12”.

Dwarf Blue Fescue (*Festuca*): Informal small clumping grass with a blue hue. *Festuca* can be used in rock gardens and as a courtyard grass. *Festuca* prefers full sun. Height varies by species, and can range from 6–24”. This species can tolerate dryer soils.

- “Elijah Blue” — Icy blue, low mound; height 6–12”, width 8–10”.
- “Boulder Blue” — Powdery strong blue; height 8–10”, width 8–10”.

Japanese Forest Grass (*Hakonechloa*): Waves of ribbon-like blades adorn this small, graceful group of grasses. *Hakonechloa* is perfect for brightening up a shady area. They prefer part sun to light shade. Mounding 12–18” tall.

- “Aurea” — Bright green- and gold-striped blades; height 12–18”, width 1–2’.
- “All Gold” — Bright gold foliage; height 10–12”, width 10–12”.

Blue Oat Grass (*Helictotrichon*): This graceful clump-forming native grass features blue tones. The best blue coloring is achieved in dryer soils. *Helictotrichon* requires full sun. Height varies from 18–36” depending on the variety.

- “Blue Oat Grass — Bright blue/gray blades; height 2–3’, width 2–3’.
- “Sapphire” — Blue foliage; height 2–3’, width 12–15”.

Miscanthus (*Miscanthus sinensis*): A wonderful and diverse group with large, full, feathery flower heads in late summer. Blades are long and slender, forming erect or arching clumps. *Miscanthus* requires full sun. Height varies from 24”–6’ depending

(continued...)

“Let’s Grow Green Together”



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on the variety. *Miscanthus* is very hardy and has some of the showiest flowers on any grasses.

- “Variegatus” — Broad blades with white variegation; height 5–6’, width 5–6’.
- Porcupine - “Strictus” — Foliage bears horizontal bands of creamy yellow over a green background; height 6–7’, with 3–4’. Upright growth.
- Zebra - “Zebrinus” — Foliage bears horizontal bands of creamy yellow over a green background; height 6–7’, width 4–5’. Arching habit.
- Red leafed *Miscanthus* - “Purpureus” — Foliage is green with red fall color; height 4–5’, width 3–4’.
- “Little Zebra” — Foliage bears horizontal bands of creamy yellow over a green background; dwarf; height 3–4’, width 3–4’.
- Maiden - “Gracillimus” — Narrow blades; height 5–7’, width 5–6’.
- Morning Light — Silvery blades with green center; height 4–5’, width 4–5’. Arching habit.

Moor Grass (*Molina*): Clump-forming variety with broad, softly arching foliage. Airy flower heads are held considerably above the foliage. *Molina* prefers full to part sun. Height varies from 18–24”, while flowers may achieve 4’ in height or more.

Switch Grass (*Panicum virgatum*): A good selection when height is desired but space is somewhat limited. This North American native has slender blades and produces an airy plume. *Panicum* prefers full sun but can tolerate light shade. Height varies from 3–5’ depending on the variety. Clump forming.

- “Heavy Metal” — Metallic powder-blue foliage; height 5–6’, width 8–24”.
- “Cloud Nine” — Medium green blades; height 5–7’, width 2–3’.

- “Shenandoah” — Reddish tint to the green blades, tip color increases with time; height 3’, width 2–3’.
- “Haense Hermes” — Medium-green blades; height 4–5’, width 2–3’.

Fountain Grass (*Pennisetum*): This group is characterized by very full clumps of thin, slender blades that produce numerous fuzzy, fluffy flower heads in the summer. *Pennisetum* requires full sun. Height varies from 8”–4’ depending on the variety. Clump forming.

- *Alopecuroides* — Pleasant green mounding form; height 3–4’, width 3–4’.
- Hameln — Deep green blades; height 24–30”, width 24–30”.
- “Karley Rose” — Deep green blades with deep pink flowers; height 18–24”, width 18–24”.
- “North Wind” — Powdery blue color with sturdy blades; height 5–6’, width 8–24”.

Ribbon Grass (*Phalaris*): When you need a ground cover, this is the plant. A medium-sized selection that is noted for its variegation and noble nature. Caution should be used when planting, as this grass tends toward invasiveness. *Phalaris* requires full sun. Height varies between 2–4’. Running form; tolerates wet soil conditions.

Little Blue Stem Grass (*Schizachyrium*): Native to North America, this small grass has a wonderful blue-tinted foliage. The leaves themselves are rather slender, forming an upright narrow clump. *Schizachyrium* prefers full sun. Height varies from 2–3’.