



# Outstanding Ornamental Grasses

## **Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*) 3' - 4'**

Grows 3' - 4' in all soils except waterlogged. It forms a mound of light green foliage graduating to darker blue-green to bronze-orange in the fall. Use this grass for masses or in borders as a specimen. Little Bluestem will grow in full sun to partial shade. Do not overwater or Bluestem will stretch and fall.

## **Feather Reed (*Calamagrostis acutiflora* 'Karl Foerster') 4' - 5'**

Nice vertical grower. Green leaves with golden flowers. Blooms early summer. Prefers moist, well prepared soil and a full day's sun. One of the showiest ornamental grasses. Give it adequate water in our hot, dry summers.

## **Fountain Grasses (*Pennisetum* sp.)**

### **Black Fountain Grass (*Pennisetum alopecuroides* 'Moudry') 1.5'-2'**

This grass is prized for its lush green foliage and almost black foxtails. The grass mounds to 1.5' - 2' by 1.5' - 2' wide. The flowers (foxtails) emerge in late August/early September and are 6"-8" long. The fall foliage varies from yellowish pumpkin to straw color. Full sun.

### **Cassian Fountain Grass (*Pennisetum alopecuroides* 'Cassian') 1' - 2'**

A new dwarf variety. Excellent thick foliage with distinct golden orange color in the fall.

### **Hameln Fountain Grass (*Pennisetum alopecuroides* 'Hameln') 2'-3'**

This grass grows 2'-3' tall by 2' wide. The flower plumes are white to creamy tan. The plumes are borne 12"-18" above the foliage and are 3" - 4" long. Hameln Fountain Grass needs adequate moisture to perform well. Hameln blooms from August thru November. Full sun.

### **Standard Fountain Grass (*Pennisetum alopecuroides*) 3' - 4'**

One of the most versatile, dependable and showy grasses. Grows 3'-4' by 2'-3' and flowers starting in August. The foliage is glossy green turning yellow and brown with the onset of fall. The plumes are 4" to 10" long and are borne on arching stems. Full sun.

## **Inland Seaots (*Chasmanthium latifolium*) 2' - 3'**

Outstanding grass for the shade. It will burn in the sun initially, but will acclimate. Lush foliage topped by heavy, nodding seed heads. Grows 2'-3' tall. The attractive foliage changes from lush green to copper bronze in the fall. The foliage is bamboo-like in character. The grass is excellent in fresh and dried arrangements. Prefers moist, well drained soil.



### Miscanthus Grasses (Miscanthus sp.)

#### Dwarf Maiden Grass (Miscanthus sinensis 'Adagio') 2' - 2.5'

A compact grower with silver-gray foliage. Flowers emerge pink and age to white. Excellent.

#### Maiden Grass (Miscanthus sinensis 'Gracillimus') 6' - 7'

Very elegant long, arching silvery green foliage. Grows 6' - 7' foot tall and as wide. This grass is very good in formal gardens because of its fine texture and symmetrical upright shape. Flowers are white and fan-shaped. Blooms in October. Flower spikes hold all winter long. Plant in full sun and in well drained soils.

#### Morning Light Grass (Miscanthus sinensis 'Morning Light') 4' - 5'

Another outstanding variegated grass. Silvery blooms in the fall.

#### Variegated Japanese Silver Grass (Miscanthus sinensis 'variegatus') 4' - 6'

A white-striped, large clumping grass (grows 4' to 6' tall by 4' to 6' wide). Blooms in August - September forming silvery-white plumes. This grass grows in full sun to partial shade. Use as a screen or specimen/accent plant.

### Muhly Grasses (Muhlenbergia sp.)

#### Autumn Blush Muhly (Muhlenbergia capillaris) 2' - 3'

The blooms appear like clouds of pinkish lilac smoke over the foliage. This grass is among the showiest. Bloom time is September through November. This grass grows best in well drained, sunny areas. Grows 2'-3' by 2'-3'.

#### Big Muhly (Muhlenbergia lindheimeri) 6' - 7'

An excellent specimen screen grass. Grows 6'-7' tall by 3'-4' wide. Blue foliage and grayish-silver flower spikes. The leaves are approximately 1/4 inches wide and 12"-18" long. Flowers rise 1.5' - 2' above the foliage. Blooms September to December. This grass tolerates a wide range of soils from rocky to heavy clay. Full sun.

#### Ravenna Grass (Erianthus ravennae) 8' - 10'

Also called hardy Pampas grass. Flower spikes tower above the foliage and are very dramatic. Spikes are silvery white. Foliage matures to multiple colors including orange, beige, tan and purple. Flower spikes persist into the winter. An outstanding specimen plant. Prefers a moist, well drained soil and full sun.

#### Mexican Feather Grass (Nassella tenuissima) 1.5' - 2'

Among the finest of all ornamental grasses. A fine textured clumping grass which occurs naturally from Texas to New Mexico south through Central America to Chile. This grass forms wispy tufts to 2 ft tall and has wide bright green thread-like leaves. In mid-summer the soft plume-like flower spikes form, rising only slightly above the foliage

#### Switchgrass (Panicum virgatum) 4' - 6'

Does best in wetter soils. It is valued as an ornamental for its erect upright form (grows 4 - 6 ft. tall). Effective planted alone or massed in groups. It is an excellent choice for water gardens. The grass has yellow fall color. Leaf color ranges from deep green to gray-green. Heavy Metal is a nice variety with metallic blue color. The flowers emerge in July (pinkish/silvery) and mature to grayish-white. All soils, full sun.

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