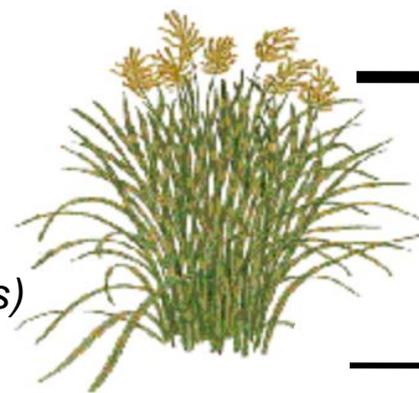


**ORNAMENTAL
GRASSES**
(And Grass-Like Plants)



Beautiful ...

Whether you are looking for a modest filler or a dynamic specimen plant, ornamental grasses are wonderful additions to the garden. Ornamental grasses are valuable for their distinctive leaf structure, decorative seed heads and ease of maintenance. Grass foliage moves in a breeze and catches light like few other plants. Grasses come in many shades of green but in a variety of grays, reds, russets, golds, and yellows. Grasses offer patterned foliage with variegations of white, ivory, cream or yellow. Best of all, several native species are perfect additions to any garden.

Easy Care ...

Ornamental grasses require little care. They are virtually pest-free, disease-free, and can withstand a variety of environmental conditions. Grasses grow quickly to their mature size. Once established, fertilization or supplemental water is not required for most species.

Spring Care ...

Each spring cut back as low as possible to the ground to allow for spring renewal. Removal of the old growth is easy when the dead blades are tied or bundled before cutting. Once tied, pruning shears or electric hedge trimmers can be used. Be sure to wear gloves and protect the arms as the blades can be sharp.

Dividing ...

Periodic dividing is a must and can be challenging. Divide in early spring as growth begins. Don't let the clumps get overgrown. Smaller plants are easier to divide. A sharp spade, ax, or even power tools maybe be needed. Cut back, dig out the plant and replace a section about 6" in diameter. Replanting larger clumps leads to more frequent divisions. Stay ahead of the clumps and divide when the plants reach dinner plate in size or larger makes this task easier.

Note of Caution...

In the following list of ornamental grasses, any considered aggressive or even invasive are noted in the description. Self-seeding tendencies and vigorous rhizome activity are the issues. When it comes to Maiden Grass, *Miscanthus sinensis*, is considered invasive from self-seeding. All the cultivars of Maiden Grass (and there are many) are sterile when planted by themselves. However, if any two cultivars of Maiden Grass cross-pollinate with each other, they have the potential to produce fertile seed with the same genetics of the invasive species. Ornamental cultivars of *Miscanthus sinensis* should only be planted in managed landscapes where they can be watched for self-seeding.

Grasses for the back of the border - 5 to 14 ft (*Asterisk denotes a native species)

Name	Height	Description
Giant Reed Grass <i>Arundo donax</i>	10-14 ft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A bold, giant grass with bamboo-like canes and long, drooping, gray-green-blue leaves. Foot-long flowers in late season. Used as a specimen or screen. Caution: Rhizomes can spread aggressively.
Variegated Giant Reed Grass <i>Arundo donax 'Varagata'</i>	10-14 ft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as species, but leaves and stems are striped creamy-white in spring. Color changing to more yellow-green in summer. Caution: Rhizomes can spread aggressively.
Hardy Pampas Grass <i>Saccharum ravennae</i>	10-14 ft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large, creamy-white plumes form in late summer above a beautiful mound of arching gray-green leaves. Used as a dramatic specimen or a screen. Self-seeding is potentially invasive in wet areas.
Gracillimus Maiden Grass <i>Miscanthus sinensis 'Gracillimus'</i>	5-6 ft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very narrow leaves form a graceful, upright, dense clump. Plumes form late in the season. Winter color is that of dried corn husks. Can become invasive when two or more cultivars of this species cross-pollinate.
Cabaret Maiden Grass <i>Miscanthus sinensis 'Cabaret'</i>	5-6 ft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reddish-Copper colored plumes appear in late summer. Wide ribbon-like leaves have a creamy white center.
Variegated Silver Maiden Grass <i>Miscanthus sinensis 'Variegatus'</i>	5-6 ft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A wide-leaved, brightly variegated form with white edges. (Opposite of 'Cabaret') Reddish tassel flowers in Sept. change to silvery plumes.
Graziella Maiden Grass <i>Miscanthus sinensis 'Graziella'</i>	5-7 ft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Silvery plumes late in the season are held well above the foliage, making a dramatic display. Fall color is a wonderful burgundy-bronze.
Red-Silver Maiden Grass <i>Miscanthus sinensis 'Rotsilber'</i>	5-7 ft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slender fine-textured foliage forms vase shape clump Emerging flower plumes are a dramatic metallic red before maturing to a silvery-white color.
Porcupine Grass (Maiden Grass) <i>Miscanthus sinensis 'Strictus'</i>	6-8 ft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wide bladed leaves with striking horizontal yellow and green bands. Very upright in form.
*Dallas Blues Switch Grass <i>Panicum virgatum 'Dallas Blues'</i>	6-8 ft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steel blue foliage topped with pastel-mauve flower heads in the fall. One of the best for blue color. Extremely hardy selection of native grass.
*Northwind Switch Grass <i>Panicum virgatum 'Northwind'</i>	6-8 ft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sturdy, upright native grass. Steel-blue stems and olive-green blades. Best as a screen or mass planting.
*Red October Big Bluestem <i>Andropogon gerardii 'Red October'</i>	4-6 ft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blue-green foliage through growing season. Stunning burgundy to scarlet red in fall. Hardy native.
*Blackhawks Big Bluestem <i>Andropogon gerardii 'Blackhawks'</i>	5-8 ft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This native grass emerges green, then blades get red-bronze tips in summer. In fall, the color deepens to dark purple-black.

Grasses for the middle of the border – 3 to 5 ft (*Asterisk denotes a native species)

Name	Height	Description
Feather Reed Grass, Karl Forester <i>Calamagrostis arundinacea</i> 'Karl Foerster'	4-5 ft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upright, narrow habit. • Best grass for long period of show. • First to leaf out in spring. • Showy, narrow, spikey blooms appear in June, followed by bright gold seed heads in late summer.
Feather Reed Grass, Overdam <i>Calamagrostis arundinacea</i> 'Overdam'	3-4 ft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foot high variegated foliage is edged in white. • Plumes emerge pinkish and turn gold later in the season.
Feather Reed Grass, Eldorado <i>Calamagrostis x acutiflora</i> 'Eldorado'	4-5 ft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Variegated selection of 'Karl Foerster,' dark green foliage, yellow stripe. • Upright habit and valuable accent in the landscape.
Feather Reed Grass, Avalanche <i>Calamagrostis acutiflora</i> 'Avalanche'	4-5 ft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Variegated selection of 'Karl Foerster,' green blades with a white stripe in center. • Seed heads last through summer.
Fountain Grass <i>Pennisetum alopecuroides</i>	3-4 ft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Showy brush-like plumes, 5-7" long in late summer. • Great as a specimen or in mass plantings.
Morning Light Maiden Grass <i>Miscanthus sinensis</i> 'Morning Light'	4-5 ft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graceful, fine-textured, clumping grass with pastel green and white variegated foliage. • Feathery plumes in fall.
Adagio Maiden Grass <i>Miscanthus sinensis</i> 'Adagio'	3-4 ft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slender, silvery foliage forms a compact, graceful clump. • Silvery-white blooms are held well above the foliage in the fall.
Autumn Flame Maiden Grass <i>Miscanthus sinensis</i> 'Purpurascens'	3-4 ft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very upright, almost vertical habit. • Green leaves take on a bright orange-red color in fall. • Magenta-colored fans appear early, mature to white.
Dwarf Maiden Grass <i>Miscanthus sinensis</i> 'Yaku Jima'	3-4 ft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A compact version of Maiden Grass. • Dark green, delicate blades form a graceful, vase-shaped clump. • Early bloomer.
Little Zebra Maiden Grass <i>Miscanthus sinensis</i> 'Little Zebra'	3-4 ft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smaller growth habit than Porcupine grass. • Green grass blades are banded with bright golden yellow. • Attractive pinkish-copper flower plumes late in the summer.
Gold Bar Maiden Grass <i>Miscanthus sinensis</i> 'Gold Bar'	4-5 ft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dense growth with horizontal stripes. • Compact, erect habit, 4-5 ft by October. • Border or container. • Blooms in late October.
*Indian Steel Indian Grass <i>Sorghastrum nutans</i> 'Indian Steel'	3-5 ft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upright steel blue-green leaf blades with yellowish to tan flower spikes. • Blades turn gold in fall and retain color in winter.
*Heavy Metal Switch Grass <i>Panicum virgatum</i> 'Heavy Metal'	4-5 ft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clumping, steel blue-gray foliage on very stiffly upright plants. • Pinkish panicles in July. • Frost turns switchgrass a wheat color and stiffens its blades.

*Shenandoah Switch Grass <i>Panicum virgatum</i> 'Shenandoah'	3-5 ft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A tough selection of one of our native prairie grasses. • Foliage is tipped with deep, blood-red highlights, and seed heads share the same color late in the season. • One of the few red-foliaged grasses available that will survive our winters. • Wonderful reddish-purple fall color.
*Hot Rod Switch Grass <i>Panicum virgatum</i> 'Hot Rod'	3-4 ft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blue-green foliage takes on a deeper burgundy to maroon through the summer. • Compact form with good vertical habit.
*Blue Heaven Little Blue Stem <i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i> 'Blue Heaven'	3-4 ft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blue-gray foliage has burgundy hues in summer. • Bronze to orange fall color. • Upright growth habit makes it an excellent selection.
*The Blues Little Blue Stem <i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i> 'The Blues'	2.5-3.5 ft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compact upright stature with light blue-green foliage that turns coppery orange in fall. • Flower spikes emerge above the foliage and persist into fall.
*Standing Ovation Little Blue Stem <i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i> 'Standing Ovation'	3-4 ft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foliage emerges blue, develops pink to burgundy hues in late summer, and turns a rich copper in fall. • Slender stems rise with purplish panicles and white seed heads.

Grasses for the front of the border – 3 ft & under (*Asterisk denotes a native species)

Name	Height	Description
*Prairie Dropseed <i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>	2-3 ft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A very tough native prairie grass. • Slow-growing, small species with rich emerald-green foliage throughout the summer, changing to golden-yellow to orange in the fall. • Fragrant flowers rise above the foliage late in the summer.
Japanese Forest Grass <i>Hakonechloa macro</i> 'Aureola'	12-18 in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beautiful arching form • Excellent yellow to golden foliage often variegates. • Does best in light shade. • Prefers even moisture for best growth.
Blue Fescue, Elijah <i>Festuca ovina</i> var. <i>glauca</i> 'Elijah Blue'	6-10 in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low tufted grass with fine, silver-blue foliage. Tan seed heads carried on spikes in mid-summer. • Needs full sun and well-drained soil. Can be short lived.
Hamlin Fountain Grass <i>Pennisetum alopecuroides</i> 'Hamlin'	2-3 ft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graceful, narrow leaves and copper-tan bottle brushblossoms in fall. • Compact and neat.
Karley Rose Fountain Grass <i>Pennisetum orientale</i> 'Karley Rose'	2.5-3.5 ft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An elegant selection with beautiful rose-purple flowers rising above rich green foliage.
Little Bunny Fountain Grass <i>Pennisetum alopecuroides</i> 'Little Bunny'	10-12 in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smallest of the fountain grasses. • Makes a small mound of soft green topped with "bunny tail" plumes.
Burgundy Bunny Fountain Grass <i>Pennisetum alopecuroides</i> 'Burgundy Bunny'	12-18 in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green foliage is highlighted with fiery red hues later in the summer and fall. • Sports the same "bunny tail" plumes as its smaller counterpart.

Black-Seeded Fountain Grass <i>Pennisetum alopecuroides</i> ‘ <i>Moudry</i> ’	2-3 ft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handsome form with long black plumes in the fall atop dark green foliage. • Caution: Has been known to spread by self-seeding.
Bandwidth Maiden Grass <i>Miscanthus sinensis</i> ‘ <i>Bandwidth</i> ’	2.5-3 ft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The most dwarf form of Porcupine ‘<i>Strictus</i>’ grass. • Sports the same vertical habit with narrow foliage of green and yellow horizontal bands. • Great for smaller gardens.
*Blonde Ambition Blue Grama Grass <i>Bouteloua gracilis</i> ‘ <i>Blonde Ambition</i> ’	2-3 ft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This attractive native prairie grass has a distinctive horizontal arrangement of eyelash-like chartreuse flowers that later produces blonde-colored seeds. • Narrow bluish-gray leaf blades turn purplish in fall.
*Blue Grama Grass <i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>	2 ft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curious comb-like reddish flower spikes are suspended horizontally. Flower color fades to straw. • Fine blue-gray leaf blades turn golden brown with red tones in fall.
Little Kitten Maiden Grass <i>Miscanthus sinensis</i> ‘ <i>Little Kitten</i> ’	2.5-3 ft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small, compact form with narrow leaf blades. • Flowers in late summer with silvery-white plumes.
Northern Sea Oats <i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i>	2-3 ft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bamboo-like grass with light green leaves and showy, pendulous, oat-like seed heads. • Full sun to part shade. • Seed heads are excellent in arrangements. • Caution: Can self-sow prolifically.
Blue Dune Lyme Grass <i>Leymus arenarius</i> ‘ <i>Blue Dune</i> ’	3 ft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Striking silver-blue foliage with a spreading loose form. Slender, light, gray-green flower spikes turn tan in summer. • Effective in a contained border mass planting. • Caution: Can spread vigorously by rhizomes.
Liriope, Big Blue <i>Liriope muscari</i> ‘ <i>Big Blue</i> ’	12 -18 in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broad, dark green strap-like leaves perform well in full sun to part shade. • Abundant blue-purple flower spikes rise above the foliage to 18” in summer.
Liriope, Silvery Sunproof <i>Liriope muscari</i> ‘ <i>Silvery Sunproof</i> ’	12 in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yellow to creamy-white striped variegated foliage anchors lavender spiked flowers in late summer. • Can tolerate full sun to part shade.
Liriope, Creeping <i>Liriope spicata</i>	12 in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dark green grass-like foliage with pale lavender flower spikes later in summer. • Fast spreading vigorous growth is best when maintained by a good border.
Cedar Sedge <i>Carex eburnea</i>	2-4 in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hair-like leaves spread slowly to form a fine-textured low groundcover. • Best in part to full shade with moist to medium water requirements.
Blue Zinger Blue-Gray Sedge <i>Carex glauca</i> ‘ <i>Blue Zinger</i> ’	12-18 in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fine textured and arching blades of blue-gray foliage • Good effect in mass plantings for shaded areas • Prefers moist conditions but will tolerate drier soils
Red Fox Curly Sedge <i>Carex buchananii</i>	18-24 in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unique narrow cinnamon-brown foliage year-round. • Great for winter interest. • Prefers even moisture.
Palm Sedge <i>Carex muskingumensis</i>	2-3 ft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easy to grow sedge that thrives in shady, moist clay soils. • Glossy green leaves have palm-like leaf branching.

Blue Dart Rush <i>Juncus tenuis</i> 'Blue Dart'	18 in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The stiff yet fine upright texture and blue-green grass-like foliage can thrive in wet soils but can also be drought tolerant. Best in full to part sun locations in the garden.
Blue Arrows Rush <i>Juncus inflexus</i> 'Blue Arrows'	3 ft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A taller counterpart of 'Blue Dart' emerges lime-green and turns a bluish-green in the summer. Cultural characteristics are the same as 'Blue Dart' and often used in container combinations.
Variiegated Sweet Flag <i>Acorus calmus</i> 'Variegatus'	2-3 ft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grass-like plant with bold sword-shaped leaves with creamy white and green stripes. Full to part sun plant that loves moist to wet soils. Great accent for pond edge.

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