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GUIDE TO THE USE OF ORNAMENTAL GRASSES

The popularity of ornamental grasses has increased dramatically over the past several years. Variations in foliage structure, seed heads, size, and color add year round interest to the landscape. Winter hardiness, as well as resistance to insect and disease, makes grasses an attractive choice for most gardens.

Leave most grasses unpruned for winter interest and cut back to 6-8" from the ground in late winter or early spring. Ornamental grasses will thrive in full sun; however there are some varieties that will tolerate a good bit of shade. Varieties that can tolerate shade are marked with an *.

VARIETY

HEIGHT / SPREAD

FEATURES

Andropogon gerardii 'Red October'	Ht 4-6' Sprd 2-3'	Leaves start deep green and turn deeper shades of red throughout the seasons.
Calamagrostis arundinacea 'Karl Foerster'	Ht. 4-6' Sprd. 1-2'	Erect, narrow clump. Loose, open, purplish flower heads in June, become buff plumes by mid August.
Carex morrowii* 'Ice Dance'	Ht. 12-18" Sprd. 14"	Dark green blades with a clear white borders. Prefers light to full shade.
Carex morrowii* 'Variegata'	Ht. 12-24" Sprd. 14"	Clumping growth habit. Great for edging, borders, or groundcover. Prefers moist soils in light shade.
Carex oshimensis 'Everillo'	Ht 12-18" Sprd 12-18"	A mounding fountain of lime green leaves turning to gold. Deer resistant.
Festuca glauca 'Beyond Blue'	Ht 10-12" Sprd 16-18"	Dense tuft of bluer-than-blue leaves. Spikes of tan flowers in early summer. Excellent for mass planting, edging, or in the rock garden.
Festuca glauca 'Blue Whiskers'	Ht 10-12" Sprd 24-28"	The finely textured, longer, brighter silvery blue leaves form a fully rounded, robust clump with consistent flower coverage.
Hakonechloa macra 'Aureola'	Ht 18" Sprd 18"	Graceful, colorful groundcover for shade. Slender stems hold bright yellow leaves creating a tiny bamboo-like effect. Foliage becomes pink-tinged as the weather cools.
Imperata cylindrica 'Red Baron'	Ht 18-20" Sprd 10-12"	Leaves green at base, red tips become more intense until they appear to glow. Effective as an edging, in rock garden, and especially when mass planted.

Juncus effusus* 'Spiralis'	Ht. 8" Sprd. 8-10"	Hardy bog plant, loves moisture. Unique twisted stems make this a great grass for containers and dried floral arrangements. Plant in sun or part shade.
Miscanthus sinensis 'Adagio'	Ht 5' Sprd 3'	Graceful, silvery green arching foliage becomes a whirl of orange, gold and burgundy in fall. Showy plumes.
Miscanthus sinensis 'Autumn Anthem'	Ht 5-5.5' Sprd 5'	Heavy flower production. It forms a dense, rounded ball-shaped clump of finely textured, dark green leaves with a narrow, white midrib.
Miscanthus sinensis 'Gracillimus'	Ht. 4-6' Sprd. 3-4'	Fine textured green blades, with graceful arching habit. Foliage turns a golden bronze winter. Plumes appear in fall and can be used in fresh or dried floral arrangements.
Miscanthus sinensis 'Morning Light'	Ht. 4-6' Sprd. 3-4'	The fine texture of 'Gracillimus' but with a thin white stripe in the center of blade, giving the grass a silvery green color. Stunning when backlit by the morning sun, hence the name.
Miscanthus sinensis 'Oktoberfest'	Ht 6-7' Sprd 3-4'	Wide, deep green leaves with a white midrib turn deep purple and red in fall as burgundy/copper flowers appear.
Miscanthus sinensis 'Strictus' (Porcupine Grass)	Ht. 4-6' Sprd. 2-3'	Green erect foliage with yellow bands. Tighter growth habit. Copper colored flowers in September.
Miscanthus sinensis 'Variegatus'	Ht. 4-6' Sprd. 2-3'	Green with vertical striping on leaves. Upright, but arching habit with yellow plumes in late summer.
Miscanthus sinensis 'Zebrinus'	Ht 6-8' Sprd 3'	Japanese Silver Grass. Large coppery flowers over an arching clump of green leaves, uniquely banded with yellow.
Panicum virgatum 'Cheyenne Sky'	Ht 3' Sprd 18"	Tight, vase-shaped clump of blue-green foliage turning wine red in early summer. By late summer, the clump is topped by wine-red flower panicles. Perennial replacement for Pennisetum 'Rubrum'
Pennisetum alopecuroides 'Hameln' (Dwarf Fountain Grass)	Ht. 1.5-2' Sprd. 1.5-2'	Compact arching habit. Brownish tan, bottle-brush plumes rise above foliage from mid summer through fall and winter. Tolerates drought.