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We want you to be successful with your garden!

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Ornamental Grasses

Ornamental grasses provide lasting beauty and make excellent additions to an established perennial garden. While most gardeners don't have just grasses planted together they do enjoy incorporating them into their garden schemes where they will make a statement. Taller grasses such as plume grass or some of the variegated grasses show up best when planted as specimen plants. Other grasses like feather reed or fescues look best when planted in groups of 3 to 5.

Grasses have varied diverse uses. They can be used to enhance the formality of a public garden or add depth to a nature planting. They are divided into 2 groups. Running grasses spread by rhizomes, which are underground stems, or by stolons, above ground horizontal stems. Running grasses can become invasive in small gardens, but they can provide erosion control in hillsides or embankments. The other group of grasses are clump forming. These grasses do well in gardens with annuals and perennials, and are easily grown in gardens where space allocation is a problem.

Grasses are further divided into cool season and warm season. Cool season grasses grow best in cooler climates and in this area it means that they will start growing in spring as the soil starts to warm up. Examples are blue oat grass (*helictotrichon*) and variegated manna (*glyceria*). Warm grasses lie dormant until soil temperatures warm up considerably, usually in late spring to early summer. They are usually fast growing so they can achieve their large sizes by autumn. Switch grass (*panicum*) and plume grass (*erianthus*) are examples of these.

Grasses also are available in many different heights. From the giant plume grass (12-20 ft) to the smaller blue fescue (8-10 in).

Large plants make excellent screens and provide areas for wildlife to hide or nest. Small grasses provide groundcover and erosion control.

Grasses have different textures and colors. Flowering plumes change from season to season emerging in white and beiges becoming red or orange in early autumn then changing to grays, and browns to provide winter color to the stark barren landscape. They are ever changing, some even introducing the element of sound into the landscape by the rustling of their leaf blades and plumes.

Ornamental grasses offer a great diversity of form, texture, color, height and growing sites. One of the most important is the place where you will be planting it. Most grasses prefer a sunny site. There are a few that will grow in shady areas. These are usually the shorter grasses like the sedges. All in all there is surely an ornamental grass that will meet your needs and provide an interesting focal point in your garden or landscape for many years. Stop by the nursery and check out our grass selection. These plants will create and heighten the interest of almost any landscape setting.

Most ornamental grasses are pest-free and other than a yearly pruning in mid March, require very little maintenance.

Platt Hill Nursery Ornamental Grasses & Sedges

BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	HEIGHT	SPACING	COLOR OF FOLIAGE	FALL FOLIAGE COLOR	FALL PLUME COLOR
<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	Big Blue Stem	4-8'	3-4'	Green-Blue	Orange-Red	Purple
<i>Briza media</i>	Quaking Grass	12-18"	18-24"	Deepgreen	Beige	Tan
<i>Calamagrostis 'Avalanche'</i>	Variegated Feather Reed Grass	4-5'	3'	Green/White	Green/White	Tan
<i>Calamagrostis 'Karl Foerster'</i>	Feather Reed Grass	3-5'	3'	Green	Yellow	Tan
<i>Calamagrostis 'Overdam'</i>	Overdam Feather Reed Grass	3'	3-4'	Green/White	Yellow	Beige
<i>Calamagrostis brachytricha</i>	Korean Feather Reed Grass	2-3'	3'	Green	Bright- Yellow	Greenish-Pink
<i>Carex elata 'Aurea'</i>	Bowles Golden Sedge	2-3'	18-24"	Gold	Gold	Brown
<i>Carex flacca</i>	Blue Sedge	6-10"	8-12"	Blue-Gray	Blue-Gray	N/A
<i>Chasmanthium latifolius</i>	Northern Sea Oats	2-3'	18-24"	Green	Bronze	Copper
<i>Eragrostis spectabilis</i>	Purple Love Grass	1-2'	18-24"	Creamy Green	Reddish	Pink
<i>Festuca glauca 'Elijah Blue'</i>	Blue Fescue	6-10"	12"	Silver-Blue	Blue-Gray	Tan
<i>Glyceria Maxima 'Variegata'</i>	Variegated Manna Grass	18-20"	2-3'	Creamy Yellow & Green	Yellow Green tinged with Pink	Green
<i>Hakonechloa macro 'Aureola'</i>	Hakone Grass	12-15"	2'	Green-Gold	Green-Gold splashed with Red	Red
<i>Helictotrichon sempervirens</i>	Blue Oat Grass	2-3'	2-3'	Blue	Blue	Beige
<i>Helictotrichon sem. 'Saphirsprudal'</i>	Sapphire Blue Oat Grass	2'	18-24"	Silvery-Blue	Blue	Beige
<i>Miscanthus 'Pupurascens'</i>	Flame Grass	4-5'	3'	Green	Orange-Red	White
<i>Miscanthus sinensis 'Cabaret'</i>	Japanese Silver Grass	6'	5-6'	Green-White	Green-White	Coppery White
<i>Miscanthus sin. 'Gracillimus'</i>	Maiden Grass	5-7'	4'	Green	Yellow	Copper
<i>Miscanthus sin. 'Graziella'</i>	Silver Maiden Grass	5-7'	4-5'	Green	Copery Orange	Silvery White
<i>Miscanthus sin. 'Hinjo'</i>	Little Nicky Grass	3-4'	3'	Green/Yellow Striping	Tan	Red
<i>Miscanthus sin. 'Huron Sunrise'</i>	Maiden Grass	6'	3-4'	Green/Silver Midribs	Yellow/Orange	Burgundy
<i>Miscanthus sin. 'Malepartus'</i>	Maiden Grass	6-7'	4'	Green	Bronze	Silver

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Miscanthus sin. 'Morning Light'	Maiden Grass	5-6'	3-4'	Green/White Midrib	Silvery Green	Reddish Bronze
Miscanthus sin. 'Nippon'	Nippon Maiden	5'	3-4'	Green	Red Bronze	
Miscanthus sin. 'Strictus'	Porcupine Grass	6-9'	4'	Green/Yellow Stripping	Straw	Reddish
Miscanthus sin. 'Variegatus'	Variegated Silver Grass	5-7'	4-5'	Green/White	Almond Tan	White
Molinia caerulea 'Sky Racer'	Tall Purple Moor Grass	7-8'	4-6'	Greenish Bronze	Yellow Orange	Yellow
Panicum virgatum	Switch Grass	3-6'	3'	Blue-Green	Orange-Bronze	Red-Purple
Panicum vir. 'Heavy Metal'	Switch Grass	4-5'	3'	Metalic Blue	Bright Yellow	Pink
Panicum vir. 'Northwind'	Switch Grass	4-5'	3'	Blue-gray	Bright Yellow	Red/Pink
Panicum vir. 'Shenandoah'	Switch Grass	3-4'	2-3'	Green then turns Red straked	Red	Red
Pennisetum alopecuroides 'Hameln'	Dwarf Fountain Grass	2-3'	2-3'	Green	Yellow	Tan
Pennisetum alop. 'Little Bunny'	Little Bunny Fountain Grass	18"	18-24"	Green	Beige	Tan
Pennisetum alop. 'Moudry'	Black Fountain Grass	2'	2'	Dark Green	Reddish Tan	Dark Purple
*Pennisetum glaucum 'Purple Majesty'	Ornamental Millet	4-5'	3'	Green to Purple with age	Dark Purple	Brownish-Pink
*Pennisetum setaceum 'Rubrum'	Purple Fountain Grass	3-4'	3'	Deep Red Wine	Red	Red
Saccharum ravennae	Plume Grass	10-14'	4-5'	Green/White Stripin	Orange	Silver to Gray
Seslaria automnalis	Autumn Moor Grass	16-18"	2'	Yellow Green	Yellow	Purplish-Black
Schizachyrium scoparium 'The Blues'	Little Blue Stem	2-3'	2'	Bluish-Gray	Reddish Copper	Silvery Beige
Sporobulus heterolepsis	Prairie Dropseed	2-4'	2-3'	Green	Yellow with Orange hues	Beige