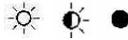


C. pensylvanica

Common Name: Pennsylvania Sedge
Zones: 4 – 9 Height: 15”

Eastern North America
Spacing: 18”



This native grows in dry to moist woods in the mountains from West Virginia to Alabama and Georgia. It forms soft, grass-like, 15” lumps of very narrow, bright green leaf. The clumps spread quickly and are soft and curl gently turning pale brown in the winter. Use this in masses to soften/brighten a damp shady are.

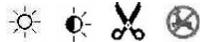
CHASMANTHIUM (chas-man-the-um)

From the Greek *chasma*, *chasmatos*, open, any wide opening, and *anthos*, flower
Poaceae Family



C. latifolium (la-ti-fo-lee-um) meaning wide leaves.

Common Name: Northern Sea Oats Eastern & Central United States
Zones: 5 – 9 Height: 3’ Spacing: 30”



This shade tolerant warm season Ornamental Grass is upright, clump forming, 3-4 feet high and spreading to 1½ feet. The leaf blades are ½ inches wide and emerge green in the spring, turning to gold in the autumn. The Bamboo like foliage has very ornamental green oat like spikelets that are suspended gracefully at the terminal end. They will turn gold in the autumn and then fade to a light brown and persist throughout winter. Cut them back in the spring. The dried seed heads and leaves will rustle in the wind, providing sound as well as movement to your winter garden.

Chasmanthium latifolium is tolerant of many soil types, except for overly moist soils, as well as being salt tolerant. They will be more upright in full sun but taller and more relaxed in full shade. Found in woodland openings, along stream and river banks, rich deciduous woods, and edges of woodlands. Northern Sea Oats is great for filling in large spaces quickly but do not plant around dainty, expensive plants. To prevent reseeding, cut flower heads off as soon as possible. Grow *Chasmanthium* in woodland gardens, borders, hedges, shade gardens, naturalized areas, accents, native gardens, under oaks and hickory trees, containers, fresh flower and dried arrangements, mass, or specimen. Cardinals, Towhees, Juncos, Sparrows, and Finches will visit these grasses for food. Quail find grasses like Northern Sea Oats useful for nesting and winter cover.

DESCHAMPSIA (des-camp-see-a)

Named for Louis Deschamps (1765-1842), a French naturalist.

D. caespitosa (ces-pi-tose-a) refers to growing in tufts.

Common Name: Tufted Hair Grass North America (except Southeast)

Zones: 4 - 9

Height: 18

Spacing: 18"



Deschampsia caespitosa is clump forming with a 2-3 foot height and a 2-foot spread. The semi-evergreen basal foliage is green and finely textured. Narrow 1/8" wide leaves are topped with finely branched flower clusters that turn to a hazy cloud like effect in July. This cool season grass will do most of its growing during the spring and fall and slow down during the warm season.

Found in its natural habitat in damp grasslands, woods, and moorlands, and badly drained clay soils, this grass is tolerant of a wide range of soil conditions. Rabbits are known to feed on this grass as well as moths and other insects. Use as a mass planting, for fresh and dried arrangements, in a woodland garden, dappled shade, shady edge, moist areas along ponds or streams, meadow, winter garden, mixed border, bog garden, or use as a specimen. Tufted Hair Grass makes a nice cover for small mammals and is grazed upon by wildlife. Birds are attracted to the seed heads. A captivating design feature for the garden using Tufted Hair Grass is to site this grass so it can be backlit by early morning or late evening light.

Plant Expedition.

In 1791, the French National Assembly sent two ships on a search and rescue mission to find the explorer La Perouse, who had been missing since 1788. On one of the ships, the 'Recherche' (search or research), was Louis *Deschamps*, a French naturalist. While the expedition was stranded in Java, Deschamps was asked to conduct natural history investigations. He settled at Batavia, and after several years returned to France. His collections and journal were reportedly seized by the Royal Navy when his ship was captured in 1803.



ELYMUS (e-li-mus)

From elymos, the Greek name for millet.

Poaceae Family

E. arenarius (a-ray-nah-ree-us)

'Blue Dune'

Common Name: Blue Lyme Grass Northeastern U.S. & Canada

Zones: 4 – 8 Height: 24 – 30" Spacing: 18"



Bright blue-gray blades grow 24-30" and produce stiff, upright, flower spikes that turn buff in late summer. Spreads vigorously by rhizome, filling in large areas quickly, may require containment. It is an important problem solver for wind, salt air and sandy soils along the immediate coast. Tolerant of seasonal clean up by mowing at winter's end.

ERAGROSTIS (e-ra-gros-tis)

From the Greek *eros*, love, and *agrostis*, a grass.

Poaceae Family

E. spectabilis

Common Name: Purple Love Grass Eastern & Central North America

Zones: 5 – 8 Height: 12 – 18" Spacing: 16"



This North American native grows low to the ground in dense green tufts, 12-18" in height. The large inflorescence is attractive, forming a purple haze above the foliage when seen from a distance in late summer/early fall. Eventually, this inflorescence breaks off and floats around like tumbleweed.

MUHLENBERGIA (myoo-len-ber-jee-a) after Gotthilf Heinrich Ernst

Muhlenberg (1753-1815), botanist.

Poaceae Family

M. capillaris (ca-pi-lar-is) meaning resembling hair.

Common Name: Pink Muhly Grass Eastern United States

Zones: 6 – 9 Height: 3' Spacing: 36"



A clump forming grass with narrow, wire like dark green foliage growing to 3'. In mid to late August the clumps are topped with pink inflorescence, which looks like a soft mist hovering over the fine textured grass. Prefers sandy soil. Native to sandy pine openings, prairies, and dry exposed areas.

PANICUM (*pah-ni-cum*)

From the Latin name for millet

Poaceae Family

P. virgatum (*vir-gah-tum*) meaning wand-like.

Common Name: Switch Grass

North America

Zones: 5 – 9

Height: *see cultivar*

Spacing: 36”



Panicum virgatum has lovely blue foliage that will turn yellow in the fall. The upright habit of this warm season grass lends itself to informal and formal designs. Switch Grass starts out as a clump and may naturalize by its rhizomes to form sizable colonies. *Panicums* are warm season grasses that need the warmth of the sun to get going in the spring. When the soil and air temperature are warm enough this Ornamental Grasses will take off like a rocket. When temperatures are high and moisture is limited they will look their best. The airy wheat-colored flowers will turn colors in the fall and fade to tan. This native grass is easy to grow and will adapt to any well-drained soil type. It will do its best in deep sandy looms but tends to flop in rich soils and will do poorly in heavy soils. Switch Grass tolerates drought or standing water. It grows by spreading rhizomes that grow horizontally to interlace and form a thick, dense sod. The roots of Switch Grass may reach depths of 10 feet or more. Full sun is preferred as too much shade will cause it to be more open floppy. Switch Grass can be cut down to about 8 inches in the winter, but it is important to leave some stubble for winter insulation.

Switch Grass, once a major component of the great American tall grass prairie can be found along creeks, streams, roadsides, pastures, and protected areas. Use this grass as a ground cover to control erosion, in native gardens, in wildlife areas, as forage for livestock, as an accent, in mass plantings, perennial borders, naturalized areas, and for screening. Use *Panicum virgatum* in the coastal landscape for its tolerance of wind and salt spray. Switch Grass is an important element in wildflower meadows, pond edges, and adds fall color to naturalistic borders and woodland-edge gardens. *Panicum virgatum* holds up well in heavy snow and provides fall-winter cover for rabbits and other small mammals. The native Switch Grass prairies are a favored nesting area for pheasants, quail, greater prairie chickens, and sharp tailed grouse, White Tailed deer, ducks, pheasants, and quail. Turkeys, pheasants, quail, doves, and songbirds will also eat the seeds.

Panicum virgatum has many uses outside the garden. Switchgrass can be used as a pasture grass for livestock grazing during the spring and summer before the leaves become coarse and tough. A quality hay is produced when the Switch Grass is harvested before the flowers develop. *Panicums* are also commonly used in revegetation projects and it has been considered for biofuel production.

Cultivars:

v. **'Cloud Nine'** is a strong-growing, blue Switch Grass with a cloud of airy, gentle blooms from August to November. Big and bold, it can reach **6'** in average-to-moist soil in full sun to light shade. Introduced by Bluemount Nursery of Monkton, Maryland.

v. **'Hanse Herms'** The airy, mist-like bloom with its reddish tint in the fall, enable this **red** native Switch Grass to provide a striking effect in a mass or at the back of the border. The foliage is a finely textured green at **4-5'** with the tops turning reddish in the late summer, then beige in winter.

v. **'Heavy Metal'** achieves the open, airy look characteristic of Switch Grass, but manages to be stiff and upright in habit with sensational **metallic-blue** foliage. This native is drought-tolerant, hot and cold resistant, and never needs staking. Its seed heads float over the delicate blades in late July and August to a height of **4'**, turning tan color over the winter. A great wildlife cover. Introduced by Kurt Bluemel of Maryland.

v. **'Northwind'** has wide, thick leaf blades of deep green and will turn to golden yellow in the fall. This *Panicum* will grow to be **60-70"** tall and will grow best in full sun with well drained soil. The spread on this **blue** grass will be 30" plus.

v. **'Prairie Sky'** is truly the bluest of the *Panicums*. The **blue** leaves are accented by narrow stems that carry the airy, delicate-looking blue seed heads in August on **3-4'** stems. This compact Wisconsin native is a strong, upright grower, breaking dormancy sooner than other *Panicums*, will never need staking, and it's blue, really blue.

v. **'Rotsrahlbusch'** is hardly distinguishable from 'Hanse Herms', 'Rotstrahlbusch' has green leaves in summer that turn **red-burgundy** in autumn. Its airy panicles are also red-tinged in fall to a height of **4-5'**.

v. **'Shenandoah'** has green leaves at **4'** in early summer, then begin turning dark red in July, and then turn to a rich **burgundy** in the fall.

Blue Grass Special

Winter was coming and Wise Owl and Day Star went looking for something to pad the inside of their moccasins. They thought about using milkweed seeds but couldn't find any. In the meadow, they saw the beautiful stems of *Panicum virgatum* with the lovely flowers waving in the breeze. They cut some stems and used them for padding and warmth in their moccasins. Their mates, Swift Eagle and Brave Hawk were gathering the same plant to use as food for their horses. The ladies had warm moccasins and the men were able to feed their horses, all from one plant.

PHALARIS (fa-lah-ris)

From the Greek name for a grass.

Poaceae Family

P. arundinacea (a-rund-di-nah-see-a) meaning reed like.

Common Name: Ribbon Grass North America

Zones: 4 – 9 Height: *see cultivar* Spacing: 24”



This rhizomatous grass will grow to 3 - 6 feet in height and spread rapidly. The arching effect will make it appear to be only a few inches high. The coarse green foliage will have a yellow flower on it that will develop black seeds. The foliage is bamboo-like with flat, arching leaf blades. Ribbon Grass is adapted to a wide range of soils. Especially good for erosion control, it is used to stabilize seashore areas. Ribbon Grass does most of its growing in the cool season and will suffer in the heat of summer. During drought conditions the foliage may become brown and will need to be cut back to new growth to ‘flush out’. It can also be mowed to 4-6 inches in midsummer. Too much fertilizer will encourage rampant growth. Grow this ornamental grass in full sun in containers, to stabilize banks, as a ground cover, and as a water plant.

Native Americans used *Phalaris* to make the peaked hats the Indian doctors wore, eating mats, mats for drying roots and berries, and fishing weirs. Ribbon Grass is also grown as a hay crop for forage and its fibers are used in pulp and papermaking processes.

Found throughout the United States, including Alaska and Hawaii, except for the most southern states of Texas east to Florida. This grass is so aggressive its planting is prohibited in Massachusetts.

Cultivars:

a. **‘Picta’** has bright **green leaves with white stripes** growing to **2-4’**. Useful in boggy areas, it can be submerged in several inches of water, along streams or ponds. Can be used in drier conditions but the tips of the leaves will turn brown and need to be sheared off to promote new growth.

a. **‘Strawberries and Cream’ (‘Feesey’)** has a bit of **pink variegation along with the green and white**. A little bit finer textured foliage than ‘Picta’ it will grow to **2’** in height. This ornamental grass is named for Mervyn Feesey, a British horticulturist and ornamental grass specialist. His home, Woodside, in North Devon, England is where he develops new and exciting plants. He has also written a book on ornamental grasses and bamboos.

SCHIZACHYRIUM (ski-za-kry-ee-um)

From the Greek *schizo*, *schizam* and *achyron*, chaff, husk, alluding to the corona glume (trumpet shaped bract or scale located at the base of a grass spikelet) and toothed lemma (the lower, outer bract in the grass floret).

Poaceae Family

S. scoparium (sko-pair-ee-um) meaning broom-like.

'The Blues'

Common Name: Little Bluestem	North America
Zones: 3 – 10	Height: 2 – 3' Spacing: 18"

This warm season grass is clump-forming, fine-textured and will grow 2-3 feet tall. The form of Little Bluestem can vary from rigidly erect to lax and arching. Summer foliage will vary from bright green to light blue, and often has conspicuous purple tints. Fall and winter color will vary from tan to copper-orange to dark orange-red. The plants with the strongest glaucous-blue summer foliage will have the most pronounced deep red coloring in autumn and winter. 'The Blues' is a moderately growing upright clumper which will turn burgundy red in the fall. Purplish-bronze flowers appear in 3-inch long racemes on branched stems rising above the foliage in August. The silvery seed heads persist into early winter. The good blue summer foliage and the delightful fall color are the best ornamental features of this grass. This grass was selected by Dr. Richard Lightly, and introduced by Tony Avent of Plants Delight

Little Bluestem requires full sun and prefers good drainage or ground that slopes. Highly fertile soils or excessively moist conditions will cause these grasses to decline. Over mulching will cause damage to the crowns. The inflorescences are delicate and inconspicuous when they bloom in late summer and after they dry will become silvery and very attractive when side-lit or back-lit by the autumn or winter sun. *Schizachyrium* will remain attractive throughout the winter, even after it snows. Little Bluestem requires average moisture and tolerates acid and alkaline soils. Little Bluestem has a deep and fibrous root system making it especially drought tolerant.

Native to American tall-grass prairies, ridges, hilltops, droughty uplands, dry hillsides, shallow ravines, dry fields, and open woodlands, Little Bluestem will also invade disturbed trail edges, road cuts, sand blowouts, and old fields. In the garden, it will add color to meadows, prairies, and woodland-edge plantings. Ideal for managed meadows, mass plantings, rock gardens, wildflower gardens, winter gardens, borders, as a ground cover, in cut flower gardens, and for restoring damaged wild land recreation areas. Little Bluestem is effective as a transition plant between formal areas to informal areas (natural field or meadow). It also provides food and shelter for wildlife attracting both bees and butterflies and providing nest sites, food, and protective cover for birds. Lovely in dried flower arrangements.

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