

Top 10 Benefits of Grasses

- Few insect or disease problems
- Low nutrient requirements; need no additional fertilizer
- Little maintenance except spring cutback
- Build soil with fibrous root systems that add organic matter annually as roots decompose
- Fast growth – most grasses are mature by 3 years
- Tolerate tough sites
- Varied texture and color: fine, blue fescues to coarse, purple switchgrass
- Most need little additional water after establishment
- Movement with the wind provides visual and audio interest
- Provide cover and food for birds, butterflies, and wildlife

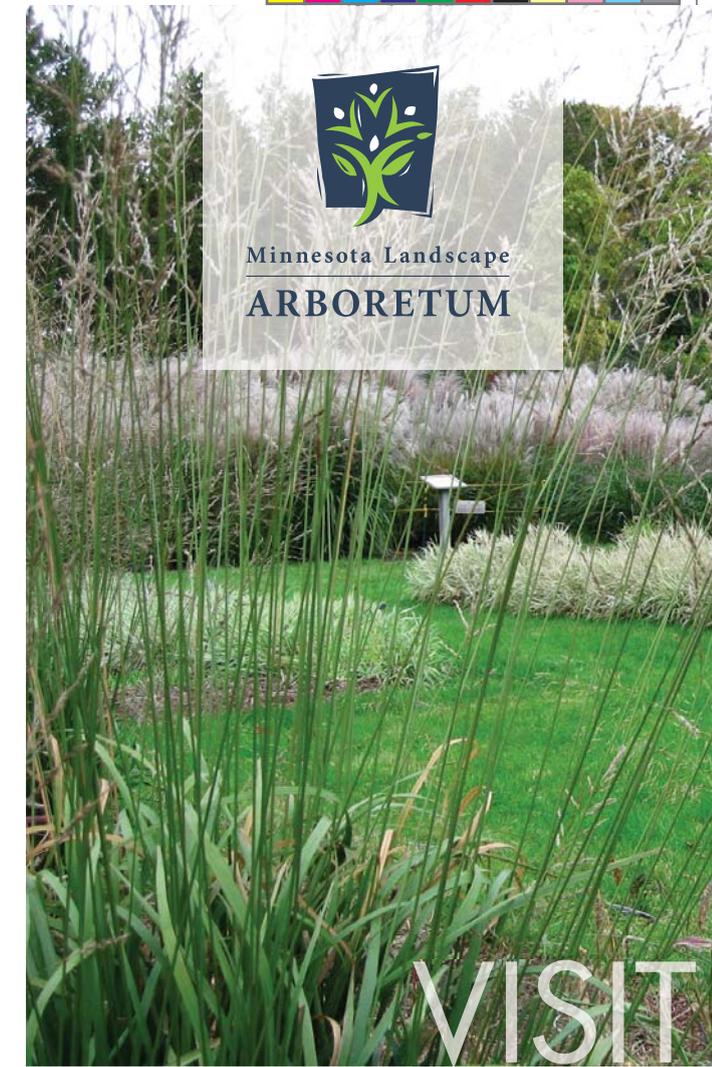
GRASSES LIST 2012

<i>Calamagrostis acutiflora</i> 'Avalanche'	3-4 feet	<i>Hakonechloa macra</i> 'Albo-striata'	16-18 inches
<i>Calamagrostis brachyticha</i>	3-4 feet	<i>Hakonechloa macra</i> 'Aureola'	12-14 inches
<i>Calamagrostis acutiflora</i> 'Eldorado'	3-4 feet	<i>Lymus arenarius</i> 'Blue Dune'	28-36 inches
<i>Calamagrostis acutiflora</i> 'Karl Foerster'	4-5 feet	<i>Molinia caerulea</i> 'Strahlenquelle'	3-4 feet
<i>Calamagrostis acutiflora</i> 'Overdam'	3-4 feet	<i>Molinia caerulea</i> 'Variegata'	2-3 feet
<i>Carex flacca (glauca)</i> 'Blue Zinger'	8-12 inches	<i>Molinia</i> 'Windspeil'	5-6 feet
<i>Carex laxiculmis</i> 'Bunny Blue'	6-10 inches	<i>Panicum amarum</i> 'Dewey Blue'	5-6 feet
<i>Carex morrowii</i> 'Ice Dance'	6-15 inches	<i>Panicum virgatum</i> 'North Wind'	4-6 feet
<i>Carex muskingumensis</i>	2-3 feet	<i>Panicum virgatum</i> 'Badlands'	5-6 feet
<i>Carex muskingumensis</i> 'Little Midge'	12-15 inches	<i>Panicum virgatum</i> 'Red Sunset'	4-5 feet
<i>Carex muskingumensis</i> 'Oehme'	1-2 feet	<i>Panicum virgatum</i> 'RR1' Ruby Ribbons™	3-4 ½ feet
<i>Carex pensylvanica</i>	6-12 inches	<i>Schizacharium scoparium</i> 'Carousel'	30 inches
<i>Carex siderosticha</i> 'Variegata'	12-18 inches	<i>Schizacharium scoparium</i> 'MinnBlue A' Blue Heaven™	3-4 feet
<i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i>	3-4 feet	<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i> 'Sioux Blue'	5-6 feet
<i>Deschampsia caespitosa</i> 'Goldenstaub'	1-2 feet	<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>	3-4 feet
<i>Festuca</i> 'Boulder Blue'	6-10 inches	<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i> 'Tara'	24-30 inches
<i>Festuca</i> 'Elijah Blue'	6-10 inches		
<i>Hakonechloa macra</i>	12-30 inches		



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Grasses

Ornamental Grasses for Sustainable Landscapes

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Welcome To the Ornamental Grass Collection

Located on Three Mile Drive near the Maze Garden, the Ornamental Grass Collection is one of the largest collections in the United States, and contains over 200 ornamental and native species and cultivars. First planted in 1987, the collection continues to be a place to study grasses, and showcase new cultivars to visitors. The Ornamental Grass Collection provides a place of beauty and peace at the Arboretum.



Care of Grasses

Ornamental grasses require few inputs, can survive drought after establishment and do not require supplemental fertilizer. Because they grow from the base each year, cut back the older growth in early spring, using hand pruners, or for larger plants, a string or blade trimmer, or electric hedge shears. Divide grasses that are not growing well; division is usually not required for good growth.

Grasses are ideal for anyone who wants a low maintenance landscape. Other than spring cutback, they need minimal attention throughout the seasons.

Choosing a Grass

When choosing ornamental grasses for a landscape, consider the site where the grass will be planted. The amount of sun, soil type and how much water the plant will get are especially important when choosing a grass. Consider planting grasses with other perennials, such as daylilies, hosta, peonies and shrubs such as roses or dwarf conifers. Large grasses can be used as a screen. The sound of wind rustling the grasses can create a relaxing environment.

Enjoy the grass collection in different seasons to see the variation in colors, texture, size, and flowers.

Look for the booklet Ornamental Grasses for Cold Climates at the Arboretum Gift Store.

A Grass for Every Landscape

Cool Season Grasses

These grasses begin to grow in early spring and grow well in the cool weather of spring and fall. Flowering in May and June, and becoming almost dormant in hot summer weather, these grasses have tan or brown flowers atop green foliage in late summer. Sedges, feather reedgrass, fescues, and tufted hairgrass are typical cool season grasses.



Sedges Have Edges!

Minnesota has hundreds of native sedges and just a small number are here in the collection. Sedges are not true grasses, they have three sides or edges to their stems, where grass stems are round, with no edges. Found in a variety of habitats, sedges are tough perennials that often prefer moist soils and tolerate shade. They are good plants to grow under trees where light is limited and lawn grasses will not grow.



Native Grasses

Minnesota has many native grasses that are ornamental and easy to grow. While some prefer wet soils and others dry, many of them have attractive fall color and provide food and shelter for wildlife, birds, and butterflies. Over 75 native species of butterflies feed on grasses and sedges!



Warm Season Grasses

These grasses grow well in the heat of summer, and are often drought resistant. They flower in mid to late summer and turn brown with freezing temperatures. Many are still attractive during the winter. Miscanthus, prairie cord grass, and switchgrass are common warm season grasses.