

## Perennial means enduring...

Annuals live and die in one season and must be replanted each year. Plants that die down, endure the winter, but grow back bigger than ever when the spring comes, are perennials. Perennials can be planted at any time throughout the growing season, until 2-3 weeks before the ground freezes. If you buy established perennials and plant them early, it's a pretty safe bet you'll get blooms in your garden before winter. Buying established plants is the fastest way to produce beautiful results in your garden. Plant perennials once and enjoy their beauty year after year. Perennials come in all shapes and sizes. Become acquainted with fail-safe heirloom perennials, or the hottest new gorgeous plant. Learning about design basics can provide you with a lifetime of gardening joy.

Learning to use the diverse colors and textures of perennials is an endless joy. After all, isn't it the pure pleasure of watching your garden bloom and thrive throughout the spring, summer and fall that sparks your interest in the first place? Picking perennials that will thrive in your garden depends on a few things: the climate in your region; the amount of sun that reaches the planting area; the different bloom times of the perennials you choose; the flower colors you like best; the mature height and width of each plant; and the condition of the perennial at your reputable garden center.

Many perennials are grown for their foliage shape and texture as well as their beautiful blooms. They offer dramatic visual contrasts or harmonies in addition to flower colors. The ways to enhance your landscape becomes endless. As your perennial knowledge and experience increases, your landscape will increase in value as well as long-term beauty. You will soon discover the true beauty and many varieties of perennials that are available

## gardening is ...

For most of us, our daily lives have become a complex balancing act between family, work, recreation and maintaining our homes. Although we would probably like to be involved in activities that will improve our own well being and that of the world around us, finding a way to fit such projects into our schedules seems a daunting task. But is it? Right in our back yards - front yards - and decks - we can do something that is fun, healthy, good for the environment and adds beauty to our surroundings as well. Design your garden based on what you like to do to make sure you spend most of your time doing just that.

Gardening is like taking a vacation in our very own yard. It is a chance to get away and *relax* in the comfort of nature. Gardening allows you to dig in, *get your hands dirty* and reconnect with nature.



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## TALL GRASSES...



*...come in a range of heights, shapes and textures. They can function as a tree or shrub in a small garden, and grow more quickly. They are gorgeous for their winter interest with sturdy graceful shapes and sound effects. As a specimen for architectural effect, as a screen or hedge, or as a lush background for the rest of the garden, they make strong flower colors even brighter. Great in public areas (streets and parks) too.*

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# TALL GRASSES...

**Arundo donax**                      **Giant Reed Grass**  
Almost bamboo-like in appearance, this 18–20' grass works well as a screen. Plumes appear in August well above the blue-green leaves. It is drought-tolerant, but can also live temporarily in standing water.  
**Plant 48 to 60 in apart, Zone 6–10, full sun**

**donax 'Variegata'**                      **Striped Reed Grass**  
The same corn plant form as *Arundo donax*, but with creamy yellow-white stripes and shorter stature at 6–9'. Variegation holds up through summer but it is more pronounced in spring.  
**Plant 48 to 60 in apart, Zone 7–10, full sun**

**Cortaderia 'Rosea'**                      **Pink Pampas Grass**  
A graceful giant with arching, rosy plumes characterized like *Cortaderia selloana* above. The 9–12' panicles make elegant cut flowers for fresh and dried arrangements.  
**Plant 36 to 48 in apart, Zone 8–10, full sun**

**Cortaderia selloana**                      **White Pampas Grass**  
King of the ornamental grasses, *Pampas* grows 9–12' high in large, upright clumps, and is used at the back of perennial borders, as screening, or for architectural interest. Its showy, feathery panicles are silvery white, from 1 to 2 feet in length, appearing in October. It has been known to survive our mild Zone 7 winters especially if clumps are tied up and the root area mulched well. Needs a well-drained location.  
**Plant 36 to 48 in apart, Zone 8–10, full sun**

**Erianthus (Saccharum) ravennae**                      **Plume Grass**  
Often compared to *Pampas* grass, *Erianthus* is much hardier. Grass blades reach 5–7', turning bronze to red in the fall. The long plumes grow on 12' strong stems turning silver in late fall. Great for the back of the border, for screening, or specimen.  
**Plant 36 to 48 in apart, Zone 5–9, full sun**

**Miscanthus 'Cabaret'**                      **Cabaret Grass**  
'Cabaret' has broad, green leaves with wide, cream-colored stripes and a decidedly upright growth habit. It reaches 6–7', and has a lush look, pleasing in the hot days of summer.  
**Plant 36 to 48 in apart, Zone 5–9, full sun**

**sinensis 'Cosmopolitan'**                      **Cosmopolitan Grass**  
One of the best new variegated grasses, 'Cosmopolitan' has very broad, green leaves with white margins. Statuesque at 6–8', it blooms silver in Sept. and has a good, non-floppy habit.  
**Plant 36 to 48 in apart, Zone 5–9, full sun**

**floridulus**                      **Giant Miscanthus**  
The 12–14' stems of this dramatic grass make it useful for both accent and screening. It is a blooming *Miscanthus* with towering white fan-like blooms in mid to late October. Its wide upright leaves turn from dark green to tan in the winter with a strong, upright habit. A tough, winter, weather-hardy grass, its stalks are striking against the snow and cold.  
**Plant 48 to 60 in apart, Zone 5–9, full sun**

**Miscanthus 'Gracillimus'**                      **Maiden Grass**  
One of the nursery favorites, 'Gracillimus' has slender, arching, dark green foliage that forms an expanding clumped base to serve equally as a lovely screen or elegant hedge, or as a lush backdrop for the rest of the garden. It blooms red in September and October to a height of 6–7'.  
**Plant 36 to 48 in apart, Zone 5–9, full sun**

**Miscanthus 'Graziella'**                      **Graziella Grass**  
At 5–6', *Graziella* is not so tall as to overwhelm the surrounding plants if used in the back of the border. It has a very slender silvery midrib, and is more upright than 'Gracillimus'. It begins to bloom from July on to September with gorgeous silvery white plumes that start off a silky, rose-pink, and then its foliage turns a lovely orange.  
**Plant 36 to 48 in apart, Zone 5–9, full sun**

**Miscanthus 'Malepartus'**                      **Malepartus Grass**  
We have included 'Malepartus' because of its moderate size at 5–6', and its early August bloom time. A robust grower with a medium wide green leaf, its large bloom is a striking purplish-pink that matures to silver. The lovely bloom is distinctly separate from the 3–4' foliage.  
**Plant 36 to 48 in apart, Zone 5–9, full sun**

**Miscanthus 'Morning Light'**                      **Variegated Maiden Grass**  
The variegated version of 'Gracillimus', but a little shorter. It is upright, blooms red in Aug- Sept, and has an arching growth habit that gives it a feathery, billowing look. From a distance, its look is absolutely light and silvery. A strong specimen plant on its own, or very striking blended with darker shades of color and foliage in the large mixed border. Annual maintenance is limited to a good haircut 6–8" from the ground in early March before spring growth starts. It grows 5–6' tall.  
**Plant 36 to 48 in apart, Zone 5–9, full sun**

**sinensis 'Silberfeder'**                      **Silver Feather Grass**  
The green leaves have a silver mid-stripe on this 7–9' grass which has lovely silver-white, fan-shaped plumes from August into October, that last throughout the winter. The foliage reaches 6' and the plumes to 9'.  
**Plant 36 to 48 inches apart, Zone 5–9, full sun**

**sinensis 'Strictus'**                      **Porcupine Grass**  
Similar to *Zebra* Grass, 'Strictus' has horizontal bands of yellow on the green leaves, but its difference is that it grows in a more stiff, erect manner. Thus its common name, *Porcupine* Grass. Its leaves are also more erect, creating a spiky effect. A favorite specimen grass, it grows to 6–8' and blooms pink in Aug- Sept.  
**Plant 36 to 48 in apart, Zone 5–9, full sun**

**Miscanthus 'Variegatus'**                      **Variegated Miscanthus**  
It has variegated leaves that are white with a rather wide, green stripe down the middle. The clumped foliage has an arching habit that makes it perfect in waterside gardens around a pond or along a stream, or to brighten up dark areas in the middle or background of your perennial garden. In September it flowers in pale pink panicles that turn beige. Grows 5–6'.  
**Plant 36 to 48 in apart, Zone 5–9, full sun to part shade**

**Miscanthus 'Zebrinus'**                      **Zebra Grass**  
*Zebra* Grass is marked by striking horizontal bands of yellow on its dark green foliage. Its height is between 7 and 8', and it is clumping in habit. Its leaves are much less upright and erect than *Porcupine* Grass, so it has a more arching habit. It has a pale yellow to beige bloom in September.  
**Plant 36 to 48 in apart, Zone 5–9, full sun**

**Molinia caerulea'Skyracer'** **Tall Purple Moor Grass**  
Upright and unusually tall to 8', the gray-green basal leaves reach 2-3' with the inflorescences providing the sculptural form and graceful movement from the time they appear in mid-summer. It prefers a cool climate, but will handle our heat if kept moist. In autumn, they turn a rich golden-yellow.  
**Plant 24 to 36 in apart, Zone 4–7, full sun**

**virgatum 'Cloud Nine'**                      **Blue Switchgrass**  
A strong-growing, blue *Switchgrass* with clouds of airy, gentle blooms from August to November, 'Cloud Nine' is a good substitute for the bigger *Miscanthus* varieties. Big and bold, it can reach 6' in average-to-moist soil.  
**Plant 36 in apart, Zone 5–9, full sun**

**Panicum 'Hanse Herms'**                      **Red Switchgrass**  
The airy, mist-like bloom with its reddish tint in the fall, enable this red native *Switchgrass* 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 tops turning reddish in late summer, then beige in winter. Try it with *Asters*, *Sedum 'Autumn Joy'* or 'Brilliant', or *Yucca*.  
**Plant 36 in apart, Zone 5–9, full sun**

**Panicum 'Heavy Metal'**                      **Blue Switchgrass**  
'Heavy Metal' achieves the open, airy look characteristic of *Switchgrass*, but it 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 4–5', turning tan color over winter.  
**Plant 36 in apart, Zone 5–9, full sun**

**virgatum 'Rotstrahlbusch'**                      **Red Switchgrass**  
Hardly distinguishable from 'Hanse Herms', 'Rotstrahlbusch' has green leaves in summer which turn red-burgundy in autumn. Its airy panicles are also red-tinged in fall to a height of 4-5'.  
**Plant 36 inches apart Zone 5–9 full sun**

**sinensis 'Silberpfeil'**                      **Silver Arrow Grass**  
Much like 'Variegatus' in size and color, *Silver Arrow* Grass is 5–6' in height with brighter white variegation on the 1/4–1/2" wide leaves. It has a reputation for having less tendency to flop. Reddish blooms appear above the foliage in August and September. In fall, the foliage turns almond in color.  
**Plant 36 to 48 inches apart Zone 5–9 full sun**