

Ornamental Grasses



Acorus gramineus 'Ogon' Golden Variegated Sweet Flag

Golden yellow 'Ogon' is a non-invasive grass-like perennial that prefers moist soil and is an exceptional ground cover for shade. Sword-like arching foliage will spread by rhizomes and will grow in boggy areas or the moist shady border. The 10-12" tall foliage will offer a striking combination to large leaf Hostas or Actaea 'Brunette'.

Plant 12" apart.

Zones 5 - 9



Acorus gramineus 'Variegatus'

Variegated Japanese Sweet Flag

Truly evergreen, with dark green and creamy white variegated leaves 1/2" wide and 8-10" tall, Acorus is a valuable addition to landscaping along a pond's edge, in water gardens, or in any boggy area. It loves (and requires) wet feet, and prefers fertile, acid soil. It will dramatically brighten a dark corner year round.

Plant 18" apart.

Zones 5 - 9



Andropogon gerardii

Big Bluestem

Formerly the dominant species of the tall-grass prairie that fed many bison and cattle, it now is mostly found growing along roadsides and riversides in the eastern and central regions of the United States. Clump-forming bluish-green foliage turns red in fall and grows to 4-8' tall.

Plant 24" apart.

Zones 4 - 8



Andropogon virginicus

Broom Sedge

This clump forming native meadow grass grows 2-5' tall. The green leaves and stems turn dark reddish-purple and then bright copper in late fall. In winter the fine hairs of the expanded racemes catch the sunlight. This grass is the linchpin of any prairie restoration.

Plant 24" apart.

Zones 5 - 8



Bouteloua curtipendula

Sideoats Grama

In late summer, from bluish-gray 1.5' tall leaves emerge purplish flowering stems with distinct oat-like spikelets hanging from one side. Fall foliage colors vary from bronze-purple to red while flowering stems fade to tan. The overall height is 3'. Native throughout the United States, this clump-former grows well in a wide range of soils and is a nice accompaniment to native wild flowers.

Plant 24" apart.

Zones 4 - 9



Bouteloua gracilis 'Blonde Ambition'

Blue Grama

Horizontally held chartreuse flowers steal the show in mid-summer to fall as they flutter atop very narrow upright bluish-green leaves. Seed heads turn to beige and remain through winter providing interest through all seasons. This 2-3' tall native grass is drought tolerant and very cold hardy. PP#22048

Plant 18" apart.

Zones 4 - 9



Gold = Sun, Green = Shade + Level Deer Resistance (see page 6 for program details)



Calamagrostis brachytricha
Korean Feather Reed Grass

Thick clumps of grassy foliage at 2' are followed in late summer with puffy pink tinted upright plumes at 3 1/2'. Blooms fade to cream and then become cinnamon-colored for the winter months. The strong vertical line complements other grasses with arching habits, as well as many flowering perennials. Handles moist, but well-drained soil, and will tolerate some shade quite happily.

Plant 24-30" apart.

Zones 4 - 9



Calamagrostis x acutiflora
'Karl Foerster'

Feather Reed Grass

Perennial Plant of the Year® 2001

While the 18-24" foliage grows in a handsome, arching clump, it is the tall, slender upright flower spikes that distinguish this grass. The graceful golden spikes rise 4-5' above the foliage and persist well into the winter. It will tolerate some shade, but prefers moist, well-drained soil in full sun.

Plant 30" apart.

Zones 4 - 9



Calamagrostis x acutiflora
'Overdam'

Feather Reed Grass

This choice Feather Reed Grass with white variegation on the narrow 12" high foliage has a gold tassel on a rigidly erect 36" stem that appears in June. It is an excellent grass for specimens and groupings. Try it with Fountain Grasses for a dramatic effect.

Plant 30" apart.

Zones 4 - 9



Calamagrostis x 'Cheju-Do'
Dwarf Feather Reed Grass

Compact upright clumps of medium green foliage are 2' tall and a robust 3' wide. In mid to late summer, the golden brown inflorescence raises the overall height to 3'. Slightly hairy leaves add shimmer to the foliage, and the stunning orange-yellow fall color complements late blooming perennials in the mixed border. 'Cheju-Do' continues to provide interest in winter, and can be cut back in early spring.

Plant 36" apart.

Photo courtesy of Stonehouse Nursery.

Zones 4 - 9



New for 2024



Carex amphibola
Creek Sedge

This eastern North American native clumping sedge is often found in the low areas and stream banks of deciduous forests. 12" tall arching shiny leaves are topped with 18" tall seed spikes in late spring. The foliage is semi-evergreen in its warmer range. Plant in mass or use for erosion control in shaded, moist locations.

Plant 18" apart.

Zones 3 - 9



Carex appalachica
Appalachian Sedge

Fine-textured Appalachian sedge is native to the dry shaded wooded slopes and rock outcrops of eastern North America. The very narrow arching leaves grow 12-18" long and 6" high as they drape over rocks and the woodland floor. Softening a rocky landscape it combines well with Aster divaricatus and Iris cristata. Requires well drained soil.

Plant 18" apart.

Zones 3 - 8



Carex buchananii
'Red Rooster'

ColorGrass® Leather Leaf Sedge

Reddish-bronze, with emphasis on bronze, upright foliage offers a unique texture/color combination to the mixed border. Surround with the green foliage and bright yellow and red blooms of Coreopsis, Gaillardia, and Helenium. This sedge prefers full sun and well-drained soil. Grows 24" tall.

Plant 18" apart.

Zones 6 - 9



Carex cherokeensis
Cherokee Sedge

1/4" wide shiny leaves are upright and arching, forming 12-18" tall clumps that spread by underground rhizomes. This mostly evergreen sedge is a southeast and south central U.S. native that prefers moist, well-drained soil but will tolerate some standing water or somewhat dryer conditions. Drooping whitish inflorescences appear in spring and age to brown. Trim lightly in late winter.

Plant 18" apart.

Zones 6 - 9





Carex elata 'Aurea'

Bowles Golden

Golden Variegated Sedge

Positively glowing in the moist, partial shade it loves best, 'Bowles Golden' Carex is a clump-grower with a solid yellow leaf blade. At 2-3' in height, it has a distinct upright, rather than weeping growth habit. At the water's edge or massed in the shade, you will find it very showy, indeed.

Plant 12" apart.

Zones 5 - 9



Carex laxiculmus

Bunny Blue® ('Hobb')

Bunny Blue Sedge

Tidy 8-12" tall clumps of 1/2" wide frosty blue leaves make an attractive ground cover or companion to shade-loving perennials. A bit slow to spread, this seed selection of a North American native of rich woods and moist stream banks will prefer an average to moist, well-drained site.

Plant 12" apart.

Zones 5 - 9



Carex glauca

'Blue Zinger'

Blue Sedge

Gracefully arching blue grass-like foliage is somewhat more clump forming than the straight species and is a bit taller at 10-16". Performs well in moist soils but will tolerate drought once established. Use as a contrasting texture/color to Heuchera 'Plum Pudding' or Actaea 'Chocoholic'.

Plant 18" apart.

Zones 5 - 9



Carex morrowii 'Ice Dance'

Silver Variegated Sedge

Once established, this spreading Carex has much improved drought-tolerance and general vigor. Shiny, strong leaves are a bit wider than our other Sedges. The green and white variegation give a bright silvery look. This semi-evergreen Carex is as graceful as it is strong-looking at 12" in height, and prefers moist, rich, well-drained soils.

Plant 18" apart.

Zones 5 - 9



Carex oshimensis 'Evergold'

Variegated Japanese Sedge

A clump-forming grass 12" high with weeping, narrow yellow grass blades with green edges, this Carex is evergreen, grows best in partial shade, and is valuable as a ground cover, for edging, in woodland settings, rock gardens, and pond areas. Try Carex in combination with a blue Hosta such as 'Blue Cadet', Epimedium rubrum, and spotted Pulmonaria.

Plant 18" apart.

Zones 5 - 9



Carex oshimensis

EverColor® Everest

Sedge

Dark green narrow leaves are edged with cool white stripes offering a clean crisp contrast in the rock garden or container. The evergreen fountain of foliage grows 12-18" tall by 18" wide. Leaves are a bit narrower than 'Silver Sceptre'. PP#20955

Plant 18" apart.

Zones 5 - 9



Carex oshimensis

EverColor® Everillo

Sedge

Everillo is a bright yellow to chartreuse dramatic fountain of foliage, ideal for brightening up the shade or container garden. A little morning sun gives the leaves a golden appearance. Grows to 12" tall in moist, well-drained soil. Use with Mertensia virginica, Polygonatum 'Variegatum' and Hosta 'Great Expectations'.

PP#21002 Plant 18" apart.

Zones 5 - 9



Carex x oshimensis

'Feather Falls'

Sedge

The vigorously growing clumps of variegated foliage work well in containers or in the mixed border. Creamy yellow and green evergreen leaves grow 12-18" tall before gracefully cascading downward and can spread to become a 24-30" wide mound. Compact creamy white plumes appear in spring. PP#26199

Plant 24" apart.

Zones 5 - 9



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Carex pensylvanica
Pennsylvania Sedge

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 leaves. 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 area.
Plant 18" apart.

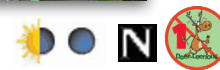
Zones 4 - 9



Carex plantaginea
Seersucker Sedge / Plantain-leaf Sedge

Native to moist woods of eastern North America, this sedge has broad pucker-edged leaves that are bright green and 1+" wide. Textured tufted foliage forms clumps 8-10" tall and 10-12" wide. Makes a nice addition to the woodland path.
Plant 12" apart.

Zones 4 - 8



Carex stricta
Tussock sedge

Native to marshes and creek sides of eastern and central North America, Tussock sedge forms dense 'hills', tussocks, from old foliage while sending up fine textured green vertical growth to 2-3'. Birds and amphibians enjoy nesting in the tufts. Prefers morning sun and afternoon shade with constant moisture.
Plant 18" apart.

Zones 3 - 8



Carex vulpinoidea
Fox Sedge

Native to eastern North America and often found growing in shallow marshes, wet meadows, and swamps it adapts to many moist to wet locations and can tolerate flooding up to 6". Narrow green leaves form a clump that grows 1-3' tall. Seed heads in mid-summer have a resemblance to fox tails.
Plant 18" apart.

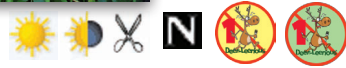
Zones 3 - 7



Chasmanthium latifolium
Northern Sea Oats

This grass grows in loose, upright clumps 3' high with attractive, nodding oat-like seed heads that appear in late July. The leaves and flattened wild oats are a deep green in shade, and will be lighter green in more sunlight. Excellent winter interest is created as the seed heads and foliage turn bronze. Use as waterside plantings.
Plant 30" apart.

Zones 5 - 9



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 is mulched well. Needs a well-drained location especially in winter. Tall friends include Rudbeckia maxima, Filipendula 'Venusta' and Vernonia noveboracensis.

Plant 36-48" apart.

Zones 6 - 10





Cortaderia selloana 'Andes Silver'

Pampas Grass

Popular in home gardens since Victorian times for their stunning flowers and architectural form, the modern dwarf Pampas cultivars have great potential for our gardens with their compact height and prolific blooms. The 5-7' 'Andes Silver' is truly hardy, has large creamy plumes in the fall, and is great as a cut flower or specimen in the garden.

Plant 48-60" apart.

Zones 5 - 10



Cortaderia selloana 'Pumila'

Dwarf Pampas Grass

If you like the look of Pampas Grass, but find it too tall, 'Pumila' may be the answer. This has foliage of 4 - 5' tall, and plumes that reach 5' or 6'. Its lovely, creamy-white plumes will add grace and interest in the small border or as an accent plant by itself.

Plant 36-48" apart.

Zones 6 - 10



Cortaderia selloana '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 36-48" apart.

Zones 7 - 10



Deschampsia cespitosa

Tufted Hair Grass

Pale green airy panicles appear in masses in late June and last through summer. Dark green foliage grows in tufts to 18-24" and up to 3-4' when in bloom. North American native Deschampsia prefers acidic, moist soil in a sunny or partly shady location.

Plant 18" apart.

Zones 4 - 9



Deschampsia cespitosa 'Goldtau'

Golden Dew Tufted Hair Grass

Dark green tufted narrow foliage is accompanied in June by striking inflorescences that produce an airy mass of golden yellow flowers. Decorative seed heads remain into winter on this cool season clump grower. Grows 1-2' tall. Prefers humus-rich, moist and well-drained soil.

Plant 24" apart.

Photo courtesy of North Creek Nurseries, Inc.

Zones 4 - 9



Elymus arenarius 'Blue Dune'

Blue Lyme Grass

Bright blue-gray blades grow 24-30" and produces 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.

Plant 18" apart.

Zones 4 - 9



Eragrostis spectabilis

Purple Love Grass

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, the inflorescence breaks off and floats around like a tumbleweed. A fine companion to fall blooming Aster divaricatus, A. 'October Skies' or 'Purple Dome' as well as Rudbeckia and Solidago.

Plant 16" apart.

Zones 5 - 9



Festuca glauca 'Cool as Ice'

Blue Fescue

Improved summer heat tolerance brings this blue fescue to the front of the line. Fine-textured leaves are light blue in spring and become intensely blue in summer. Overall height is 18". PP#27651.

Plant 18" apart.

Zones 4 - 8



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Festuca glauca
'Elijah Blue'

Blue Fescue

'Elijah Blue' is 8–10" of fine, tufted, blue-gray foliage. It can be used in ground cover plantings, in the rock garden, or as an edging plant. Try it combined with red, pink, and/or yellow flowers such as our Scabiosa 'Pink Mist', Coreopsis 'Moonbeam', or Sedum 'Autumn Joy'.

Plant 12" apart.



Hakonechloa macra
Japanese Forest Grass

This slow-spreading perennial grass forms loose cascading mounds that provide wonderful textural contrasts with other shade-loving plants. It has green leaves which have a bamboo look about them and grows 24" in height. The foliage arches over, with the leaves tending to flow in the same direction, reminiscent of a cascading waterfall.

Plant 24" apart.

Zones 4 - 8



Zones 4 - 9



Hakonechloa macra
'Aureola'

Japanese Forest Grass

Perennial Plant of the Year 2009

The graceful arching stems of this Japanese native spread slowly by rhizomes creating loose, cascading mounds reminding one of graceful bamboo, preferring cool, moist organic soil. At 14" the leaves are almost entirely a bright golden yellow with just a few very slender green stripes remaining. Cool temperatures in fall provide gorgeous tones of pink and red. Plant 15" apart.

Zones 5 - 9



Hakonechloa macra
'All Gold'

Japanese Forest Grass

Long sword shaped golden leaves form graceful clumps growing about 12" in height. Provides dramatic textural contrasts, especially when planted in drifts. Prefers moist, humus-rich, well-drained soil. Combine with Hosta, colorful Heuchera and ferns.

Plant 12" apart



Helictotrichon sempervirens
Blue Oat Grass

Stiff, blue-gray foliage with a nice clumping habit is 24" tall and can be evergreen in our area. Tan-colored flower spikes grow a foot above the foliage in summer. Try it with Heuchera 'Palace Purple' and Siberian Iris for a pleasing variety of forms and colors.

Plant 24" apart.

Photo Courtesy of Walters Gardens, Inc.

Zones 5 - 9



Zones 4 - 9



Juncus effusus

Common rush/ Soft rush

Rounded stems, 1/4" thick, reaching up to 3' feet are a rich green with a fanning growth habit. A native of wetlands in the U.S., common rush is a nice feature for the water garden or pond edge and can sit in up to 6" of water.

Plant 18" apart.



Juncus inflexus
'Blue Arrows'

Blue-green Rush

The bluish-green grass-like foliage offers remarkable texture and structure with its stiff and upright narrow leaves. Versatile and adaptable, this 2-3' tall clump grower performs well planted at water's edge but is also somewhat drought tolerant.

Plant 18" apart.

Zones 2 - 9



Zones 5 - 9

