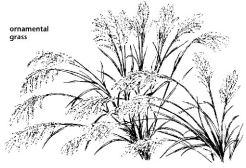


# Growing Ornamental Grasses in Central Indiana



## Why Grow Grasses?

Ornamental grasses add beauty and interest to the garden. Their dramatic seasonal changes give the garden dimension, offering an informal, natural look that is unique and refreshing.

The term “ornamental grasses” is an all-inclusive term for true grasses, sedges, and rushes. Their characteristics can vary greatly, so it is important to select the right grass to suit your needs.

Not all grasses are winter hardy in Indiana. If winter hardiness is a criteria, select grasses hardy to zone 5. A grass hardy to zone 6 may survive for several years through mild winters. But one brutal winter can end its life.

## Cool Season or Warm Season?

Grasses are classified as *cool season* or *warm season* grasses. Cool season grasses will start to grow early in the spring and may even remain semi-evergreen over the winter. These grasses have the tendency to go dormant during hot, dry summers, unless you water them.

Warm season grasses do not begin to show growth until the weather stabilizes and the soil warms in the late spring. They also will look better during periods of high temperatures and limited moisture.

## Clump or Spreading?

Grasses generally have two growth habits: *clump forming*, or *spreading*. Clump grasses grow in a neat mound or “clump.” This kind of ornamental grass will grow wider in circumference but will stay in the same place it was planted.

The spreading kind of ornamental grasses do not “stay in place.” They grow by forming rhizomes or underground runners that can become aggressive

and invasive. Both clump and spreading types have their place in the landscape.

## Growing Tips

Ornamental grasses can be planted in the spring, summer, or early fall. Division of grasses is best done in the very early spring before new growth begins, or shortly thereafter. After planting, supplemental watering may be necessary during especially dry periods or until the plants become established.

Many people like ornamental grasses for their “winter interest.” This means you do not need to cut them back until very early in the spring before growth begins. If you prefer to cut them back before spring, wait until late winter. It is best not to cut them back in the fall, as winter injury may occur. Electric hedge clippers work well for this. Burning should be done only with extreme caution.



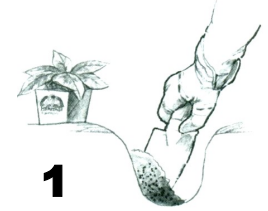
Once established, ornamental grasses are very low maintenance. They require little or no fertilizing. Over-fertilized plants will result in leggy growth and a “floppy” appearance. Most grasses are deer-resistant and are seldom bothered by pests or diseases.

For more information on the ornamental grasses we carry, please refer to the chart on the back of this brochure.

# How to Plant

**Tall** grasses make a great backdrop or focal point in a planting. **Medium**-sized grasses are effective when massed or placed in small spaces. **Low**-growing grasses are perfect for edging a border or can be used in a rock garden.

After preparing soil, dig hole deep enough to hold root ball.



1

Remove pot from plant. If plant is root-bound, carefully loosen root ball. Do not shake off the soil around the roots.



2

Place the plant in the hole so that the root ball is level with the soil surface. Backfill with surrounding soil. Caution: Do NOT put dry fertilizer directly into the hole or you may burn the roots.



3

Dry fertilizer can be spread around the perimeter of the planting hole. Water thoroughly.



4

## Ornamental Grass Varieties Available at Garden Gate Greenhouse, Inc.

Variety	Zone	Height	Season	Type
Korean Feather Reed Grass ( <i>Calamag. brachytria</i> )	4	4 ft.	Cool	Clump
Feather Reed Grass ( <i>Calam. 'Karl Foerster'</i> )	4	3-4 ft.	Cool	Clump
Variiegated Sedge ( <i>Carex m. 'Ice Dance'</i> )	5	12-18"	--	Spreading
Cappuccino Sedge ( <i>Carex t. 'Cappuccino'</i> )	6	12-16"	--	Spreading
Variiegated Sea Oats ( <i>Chasman. i. 'River Mist'</i> )	5	2-3 ft.	Warm	Clump
Hardy Plume Grass ( <i>Erianthus ravennae</i> )	6	14 ft.	Warm	Clump
Blue Fescue ( <i>Festuca g. 'Boulder Blue'</i> )	4	6-10"	Cool	Clump
Japanese Forest Grass ( <i>Hakonechloa m. 'Aureola'</i> )	6	14-18"	Warm	Slow Spreading
Japanese Blood Grass ( <i>Imperata cylin. 'Red Baron'</i> )	6	12-18"	Warm	Spreading
Fiber Optic Grass ( <i>Isolepis cernua</i> )	7	10-12"	--	Clump
Corkscrew Rush ( <i>Juncus e. spiralis 'Twister'</i> )	5	18-36"	--	Clump
Maiden Grass ( <i>Miscanthus s. 'Gracillimus'</i> )	5	7 ft.	Warm	Clump
Japanese Silver Grass ( <i>Miscanthus s. 'Malepartus'</i> )	5	5-7 ft.	Warm	Clump
Var. Maiden Grass ( <i>Miscanthus s. 'Morning Light'</i> )	5	3-5 ft.	Warm	Clump
Japanese Silver Grass ( <i>Miscanthus s. 'Rigoletto'</i> )	5	3-5 ft.	Warm	Clump
Zebra Grass ( <i>Miscanthus s. 'Zebrinus'</i> )	5	8 ft.	Warm	Clump
Black Mondo Grass ( <i>Ophiopogon p. 'Nigra'</i> )	5	8-10"	--	Spreading
Switch Grass ( <i>Panicum v. 'Heavy Metal'</i> )	4	5 ft.	Warm	Slow Spreading
Compact Fountain Grass ( <i>Pennisetum a. 'Hameln'</i> )	6 (5)	2-3 ft.	Warm	Clump
Tender Fountain Grass ( <i>Pennisetum setaceum</i> )	9	4-5 ft.	Warm	Clump
Purple Fountain Grass ( <i>Pennisetum a. 'Rubrum'</i> )	8	3-5 ft.	Warm	Clump
Little Bluestem ( <i>Schizach. s. 'Prairie Blues'</i> )	3	3 ft.	--	Clump
Mexican Feather Grass ( <i>Stipa t. 'Pony Tails'</i> )	7	24-36"	Cool	Clump

# ORNAMENTAL GRASSES

for  
Central Indiana



Compliments of

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