

Grasses for the Landscape

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Overview

- Extremely well adapted to Kansas soils, moisture and temperatures.
- Fast growing, mature height in second year.
- Little to no insect or disease problems.
- Year round interest, movement with the wind providing sound.
- Grasses come in many heights, colors, textures and water requirements.
- Can be used as groundcovers, a specimen, erosion control, screen, etc.
- Benefits from division every few years.
- Dried foliage is extremely flammable.
- Some species can be invasive, i.e. spreading or by self-sowing.

Planting or Division and Renovation

Container-grown grasses can be planted anytime. Plant grasses so their crown is at grade level. Divide in the spring just before growth begins. It is easiest to use a shovel or an axe and divide grass while still in their growing location. The new divisions can then be dug up and planted in other areas or given away. Renovation periodically is necessary since most plants suffer die-out in the center.

Spring Clean-Up

Cut off dead foliage on warm-season grasses in early spring before new growth has begun so that the tips of the new shoots are not cut off. Prune these grasses to 3 inches from the ground right before spring growth. A steel blade on a grass trimmer works well. For cool-season grasses, remove dead foliage. Compost old foliage or used as mulch.

Water

Plants should be well-watered the first year until they are established. Water by thoroughly soaking the soil to a depth of the root zone. Established plants do not need regular watering, but should be watered when rainfall is inadequate. Cool-season grasses require more constant water. Over watering causes many grasses to lay over and open up.

Fertility

A soil test prior to planting will determine the fertilizer requirement. Generally, these grasses don't need much if any fertilizer. Too much fertilizer can cause grasses to lay over.

Mulch

Use wood chips or shredded bark to control weeds and conserve moisture. Maintain a 1 to 2 inch layer of mulch over the roots.

KSU Gardens (1500 Denison Ave.) - Ornamental Grass Collection

Botanical Name	Common Name	Height	Habit
Cool-Season Grasses			
1) <i>Calamagrostis xacutiflora</i> 'Karl Foerster'	Feather Reed Grass	5'- 6'	clumping
Garden location - south cottage garden by entrance to Quinlan visitor center & visitor center gateway			
2) <i>Leymus arenarius</i> 'Glaucus'	Blue Lyme Grass	2'	spreading
Garden location - parking lot island			
3) <i>Leymus racemosus</i> 'Glaucus'	Blue Wild Rye	3'	spreading
Garden location - parking lot island			
5) <i>Nassella tenuissima</i> (<i>Stipa tenuifolia</i>)	Mexican Feather Grass	1'- 2'	clumping
Garden location - south cottage garden by entrance to Quinlan visitor center			
5) <i>Phalaris arundinacea</i> var. <i>picta</i>	Ribbon Grass	2'- 3'	spreading
Garden location - parking lot by north light pole			
6) <i>Sesleria autumnalis</i>	Autumn Moor Grass	12"- 18"	clumping
Garden location - parking lot by north light pole			
Warm-Season Grasses			
7) <i>Andropogon gerardii</i> 'Pawnee'	Big Bluestem	5'- 7'	clumping
Garden location - south adaptive/native garden, behind upper water feature			
8) <i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i> 'El Reno'	Sideoats Grama	2'	clumping
Garden location - south adaptive/native garden, by fork in walk and in north bed with John Sjo bench			
9) <i>Buchloe dactyloides</i>	Buffalograss	6"- 8"	spreading
Garden location - south adaptive/native garden, along rock outcropping			
10) <i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i>	Wild Oats	2' - 3'	clumping
Garden location - parking lot by north light pole			
11) <i>Imperata cylindrica</i> 'Red Barron'	Japanese Blood Grass	18"- 24"	spreading
Garden location - north and south cottage garden			
12) <i>Miscanthus sinensis</i> 'Adagio'	Dwarf Maiden Grass	3' - 5'	clumping
Garden location - parking lot near blue emergency light			
13) <i>Miscanthus sinensis</i> 'Autumn Light'	Japanese Silver Grass	3' - 4'	clumping
Garden location - along north/south parking lot chainlink fence			
14) <i>Miscanthus sinensis</i> 'Gracillimus'	Maiden Grass	5' - 7'	clumping
Garden location - along east/west parking lot chainlink fence, south cottage garden			
15) <i>Miscanthus sinensis</i> 'Graziella'	Japanese Silver Grass	5' - 6'	clumping
Garden location - butterfly garden			
16) <i>Miscanthus sinensis</i> 'Malepartus'	Japanese Silver Grass	3' - 4'	clumping
Garden location - east greenhouse door by parking lot			
17) <i>Miscanthus sinensis</i> 'Morning Light'	Japanese Silver Grass	4' - 5'	clumping
Garden location - along east/west parking lot chainlink fence			
18) <i>Miscanthus sinensis</i> 'Rotsilber'	Japanese Silver Grass	4' - 5'	clumping
Garden location - along north/south parking lot chainlink fence			
19) <i>Miscanthus sinensis</i> 'Sarabande'	Japanese Silver Grass	4' - 5'	clumping
Garden location - butterfly garden			
20) <i>Miscanthus sinensis</i> 'Silberfeder'	Silverfeather Grass	5' - 6'	clumping
Garden location - along east/west parking lot chainlink fence and butterfly garden			
21) <i>Miscanthus sinensis</i> 'Strictus'	Porcupine Grass	5' - 7'	clumping
Garden location - along north/south parking lot chainlink fence			
22) <i>Miscanthus sinensis</i> 'Variegatus'	Striped Eulalia Grass	4' - 6'	clumping
Garden locations - north & south cottage garden & butterfly garden			
23) <i>Miscanthus sinensis</i> 'Zebrinus'	Zebra Grass	5' - 6'	clumping
Garden location - along east/west parking lot chainlink fence			

24) <i>Panicum virgatum</i> ‘Blackwell’	Switchgrass	3' - 6'	clumping
Garden location - north & south adaptive/native garden			
25) <i>Panicum virgatum</i> ‘Heavy Metal’	Switchgrass	3' - 5'	clumping
Garden location - along east/west parking lot chainlink fence			
26) <i>Panicum virgatum</i> ‘Pathfinder’	Switchgrass	4'	clumping
Garden location - along east/west parking lot chainlink fence			
27) <i>Panicum virgatum</i> ‘Prairie Sky’	Switchgrass	4'	clumping
Garden location - south adaptive/native garden next to north/south iron fence			
28) <i>Panicum virgatum</i> ‘Shenandoah’	Switchgrass	3'	clumping
Garden location - north adaptive/native garden in bed with the one multistem redbud			
29) <i>Pennisetum alopecuroides</i> ‘Cassian’	Dwarf Fountain Grass	1' - 2'	clumping
Garden location - parking lot near north light pole			
30) <i>Pennisetum alopecuroides</i> ‘Hameln’	Dwarf Fountain Grass	3'	clumping
Garden location - visitors center gateway entrance			
31) <i>Pennisetum alopecuroides</i> ‘Little Bunny’	Dwarf Fountain Grass	18"	clumping
Garden location - butterfly garden			
32) <i>Pennisetum alopecuroides</i> ‘Moudry’	Black Fountain Grass	2' - 3'	clumping
Garden location - parking lot near north light pole			
33) <i>Pennisetum orientale</i> ‘Karley Rose’	Fountain Grass	3'	clumping
Garden location - parking lot near north light pole			
34) <i>Pennisetum orientale</i> ‘Tall Tales’	Fountain Grass	4' - 5'	spreading
Garden location - butterfly garden			
35) <i>Saccharum ravennae</i> (<i>Erianthus</i>)	Ravenna Grass (Pampas)	5' - 9'	clumping
Garden locations - parking lot along north/south chainlink fence, front of Quinlan visitor center			
36) <i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i> ‘Cimarron’	Little Bluestem	1' - 3'	clumping
Garden location - south adaptive/native garden, behind bobcat sculpture			
37) <i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i> ‘The Blues’	Little Bluestem	3'	clumping
Garden location - south adaptive/native in bed across from rock seat and oval lawn			
38) <i>Sorghastrum nutans</i> ‘Osage’	Indiangrass	4' - 8'	clumping
Garden location - south adaptive/native garden, by lamp post			
39) <i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>	Prairie Dropseed	2' - 4'	clumping
Garden location - north adaptive/native garden, in with pinkbud tree			
40) <i>Vetiveria zizanoides</i>	Khus Khus Grass	6'	clumping
Garden location - south front of Quinlan visitor center			

Annual Grasses

41) <i>Cymbopogon citratus</i>	Lemon Grass	2'	clumping
Garden location - herb bed in south cottage garden			
42) <i>Eragrostis sp.</i> ‘Wind Dancer’	Lovegrass	3'	clumping
Garden location—parking lot drive entrance and north annual bed			
43) <i>Pennisetum setaceum</i> ‘Rubrum’	Purple Fountain Grass	3'- 4'	clumping
Garden location - annual bed			

Preferred Growing Conditions

Grasses for Shade or Light Shade

Calamagrostis brachytricha - Korean feather reed grass
Carex sp. - Sedge
Chasmanthium latifolium - Wild-oat
Deschampsia caespitosa - Tufted Hair Grass
Hakonechloa macra 'Aureola'
Hystrix patula - Bottlebrush Grass
Luzula species - Snowy Wood Rush

Grasses for Dry Areas

Andropogon gerardii - Big Bluestem
Bouteloua curtipendula - Side Oats Grama
Panicum virgatum - Switchgrass
Schizachyrium scoparium - Little Bluestem
Sorghastrum nutans - Indian Grass
Sporobolus heterolepis - Prairie Dropseed

Grasses for Moist Areas

Calamagrostis xacutiflora - 'Karl Foerster'
Feather Reed Grass
Carex sp. - Sedge
Leymus arenarius 'Glaucus' - Blue Lyme Grass
Miscanthus sacchariflorus - Silver Banner Grass
Panicum virgatum - Switchgrass
Pennisetum alopecuroides - Fountain Grass
Sesleria autumnalis - Autumn Moorgrass
Saccharum ravennae - Ravenna Grass

Grasses for the Waters Edge

Arundo donax - Giant Reed
Carex sp. - Sedge
Miscanthus sacchariflorus - Silver Banner Grass
Phalaris arundinacea 'Picta' - Ribbon Grass

Grasses with Colorful Foliage

Grasses with White Variegation

Miscanthus sinensis 'Goldbar'
Miscanthus sinensis 'Strictus' - Porcupine Grass
Miscanthus sinensis 'Variegatus' - Striped Eulalia Grass
Miscanthus sinensis 'Zebrinus' - Zebra Grass
Phalaris arundinacea 'Picta' - Ribbon Grass

Blue or Red Colored Foliage

Festuca sp. - Blue Fescue
Leymus arenarius 'Glaucus' - Blue Lyme Grass
Helictotrichon sempervirens - Blue Oat Grass
Panicum virgatum - 'Shenandoah' Switch Grass
Schizachyrium scoparium - 'The Blues' Little Bluestem

Landscape Uses

Screening

Andropogon gerardii - Big Bluestem
Arundo donax - Giant Reed
Calamagrostis xacutiflora - Feather Reed Grass
Miscanthus sp. - Japanese Silver Grass
Saccharum ravennae - Ravenna Grass

Massing

Andropogon gerardii - Big Bluestem
Bouteloua curtipendula - Side Oats Grama
Chasmanthium latifolium - Wild-oat
Festuca sp. - Fescue
Helictotrichon sempervirens - Blue Oat Grass
Panicum virgatum - Switchgrass
Phalaris arundinacea 'Picta' - Ribbon Grass
Schizachyrium scoparium - Little Bluestem Grass

Specimen

Leymus arenarius - Blue Lyme Grass
Miscanthus sp. - Maiden Grass
Pennisetum alopecuroides - Fountain Grass
Saccharum ravennae - Ravenna Grass
Nassella tenuissima - Angel Hair Grass

Border

Calamagrostis xacutiflora - Feather Reed Grass
Chasmanthium latifolium - Wild-oat
Festuca sp. - Blue Fescue
Helictotrichon sempervirens - Blue Oat Grass
Miscanthus species - Maiden Grass
Panicum virgatum - Switch-grass
Pennisetum alopecuroides - Fountain Grass
Sesleria autumnalis - Autumn Moorgrass

For Dried Flowers

Chasmanthium latifolium - Wild-oat
Hystrix patula - Bottle-Brush Grass
Schizachyrium scoparium - Little Bluestem Grass

Groundcover

Leymus racemosus - Giant Blue Wild Rye
Phalaris arundinacea 'Picta' - Ribbon Grass

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