

***Andropogon gerardii*, Big Bluestem or Turkeyfoot.**

(sun)(Zones 4-8)(4-6 feet tall)

This major player of the American tallgrass prairie is perfect for home prairie reclamation and wildlife conservation plantings. The initial tuft of leaves remain low and the height develops as the curiously shaped inflorescences open up to display their turkey foot appearance. Tolerates poor soils and drought.

3GAL \$19.95 #0073

***Calamagrostis brachytricha*, Korean Feather Reed Grass.**

(sun/psh)(Zones 4-9)(4x2.5 feet)

This variable Asian native is perfect for shadier areas where other grasses will not grow. The 4-foot tall plumes are an intense reddish-purple when they emerge in late summer and fall and last until winter comes. An excellent underused ornamental grass. Will tolerate moister soils than many other grasses.

3GAL \$19.95 #2869

***Calamagrostis x acutiflora* 'Overdam', Variegated Feather Reed Grass.**

(sun/psh)(Zones 5-9)(4x2 feet)

A variegated form of the ever-popular Feather Reed Grass. The variegation is most pronounced in spring and fades to light green by the end of summer. The plumes come out fluffy and rounded but constrict to tight spears by early fall. Prefers rich, moist soil, but is adaptable.

3GAL \$19.95 #1629

***Calamagrostis x acutiflora* 'Karl Foerster', Feather Reed Grass.**

(sun/psh)(Zones 4-9)(4x2.5 feet)

This was perennial of the year some years ago, and justifiably so. The inflorescences arrive in early summer, rounded and airy, and constrict to tight spears by the end of summer. The ornamental display is very long lasting. Easily grown.

3GAL \$14.95 #2451

***Carex* 'The Beatles', Moptop Sedge.**

(sun/sh)(Zones 4-8)(6x12 inches)

A plain green sedge with curiously twisted leaves. The overall impression reminds one of the Fab Four's early days. Excellent as a border or ground cover in a tough shady spot.

2QT \$5.95 #1993

***Carex conica* 'Snowline', Snowline Sedge.**

(psh/sh)(Zones 5-9)(15x15 inches)

A charming dwarf sedge with very dark, green leaves with a delicate white margin. This evergreen perennial is slow growing and makes a good trough or container plant. Prefers moist, organic-laden soil.

2QT \$5.95 #0884

***Carex morrowii* 'Silver Sceptre', Silver Sceptre Sedge.**

(psh/sh)(Zones 5-9)(15x24 inches)

This is a hardy and vigorous evergreen sedge. Best for landscape purposes and easily grown in conditions not well suited to other sedges. Wide white margins on beefy clumps of tangled foliage. A good replacement Liriope in shady areas.

1GAL \$6.95 #0878

***Carex muskingumensis*, Muskingum Sedge.**

(sun/sh)(Zones 4-9)(24x30 inches)

A native sedge with narrow leaves on lax stems that make for a different appearance from other sedges. This will grow in sun or shade and can be allowed to form a ground cover if needed. Will grow in any soil.

2GAL \$13.95 #1994

***Carex oshimensis* 'Evergold', Evergold Sedge.**

(psh/sh)(Zones 5-9)(12x24 inches)

One of the most spectacular variegated sedges, this plant will light up any shady landscape. Tangled tufts of tapering leaves that are creamy-gold with a narrow green edge. Needs shade and moisture to do well, and if provided with such, will grow and luxuriate for years. Best in protected locals.

1GAL \$9.45 #0337

***Carex platyphylla*, Silver Sedge.**

(psh/sh)(Zones 5-9)(8x20 inches)

Low mats of wide, silvery green leaves present an exotic flair. A good plant to contrast with Hostas. Seems to be slow-growing and long-lived.

1GAL \$9.45 #0917

***Carex siderosticha* 'Variegata', Variegated Broad-leafed Sedge.**

(psh/sh)(Zones 5-9)(18x30 inches)

A very impressive hardy plant that looks for all the world like the classic houseplant, the Spider Plant. Wide, ribbon-like foliage looks like no other sedge and each one has a clean white stripe running down the side. This is prolific here and grows very fast, making it a good filler for the shady garden.

1GAL \$7.45

#1992

***Chasmanthium latifolium*, Northern Sea Oats.**

(sun/sh)(Zones 5-10)(3x3 feet)

This native grass is popular for its dangling seedheads and tenacious demeanor. It will grow in sun or shade in just about any soil. Excellent for dried arrangements and in the winter garden. Sea not required for good growth. Can reseed with abandon if seedheads are not removed.

3GAL \$22.95

#2013

***Deschampsia caespitosa*, Tufted-Hair Grass.**

(sun/psh)(Zones 4-7)(30x20 inches)

This little known grass is one of the best for wet, heavy soils. A cool season grower, this plant delights with its compact, spiky mounds of foliage and airy, tawny-colored inflorescences. This is very finely textured and mixes well with coarse textured plants. An Ohio native.

1GAL \$9.45

#2041

***Festuca glauca*, Blue Fescue.**

(sun)(Zones 3-10)(12x15 inches)

This plant usually looks out of place wherever it's planted. In Ohio, solitary tufts of powder blue needle-like foliage that look like sea urchins. Needs good drainage or it will melt in the summer heat.

2GAL \$13.45

#1461

***Hakonechloa macra 'Aureola'*, Golden Japanese Forest Grass.**

(psh/sh)(Zones 5-9)(20x36 inches)

One of the most stunning ornamental grasses for shady gardens. Dramatic clumps of golden bamboo-like foliage that appears windswept and tossed about for a wildly unique look. Extremely slow-growing, but can be coaxed along with supplemental water and fertilizer. Will take nearly full sun if well watered.

1GAL \$11.45

#2052

***Koeleria macrantha (cristata)*, June Grass.**

(sun)(Zones 4-9)(2x2 feet)

A poorly known US native grass that occurs throughout the Northern Hemisphere. This cool-season grower forms spiky mounds of narrow foliage from which tall, straight flower spikes emerge in June. The seedheads dry to a conspicuous buff color and blend well with the early summer landscape. This can go dormant in dry summers, so don't forget this when planning into a planting scheme.

2GAL \$13.45

#0759

***Miscanthus sinensis*, Chinese Silver Grass.**

(sun)(Zones 5-10)(varies)

When most people think of ornamental grass, this is the species they are usually referring to. Beefy clumps of tall, straight stems reaching skyward, crowned in feathery inflorescences that are perfect for cutting and drying. There are many foliage forms and sizes inherent to this species and it has become the subject of 'cultivarization' to some degree, although many selections are distinctive and noteworthy. *Miscanthus* thrives in relatively dry, rich soils that drain adequately. They are long-lived in the landscape, the only caveat being that they require division every 3-5 years to maintain healthy growth.

A. 'Cosmopolitan' (*M. sinensis* var. *condensata*). A cousin to 'Cabaret' and noteworthy in its own right. Instead of having a white stripe down the middle, the edges of the leaves are conspicuously marked in cream and white, while the center remains green. The growth habit and size are approximately the same as the above.

3GAL \$24.95 #1962

B. 'Graziella'. When we began growing this, we were led to believe that it was a dwarf, or at least smaller growing, than the species. The initial clump of foliage stays tight and small, reaching only 4 feet tall and 2.5 feet across. The shock comes when the plant goes into flower and the stems soar 7-8 feet in the air, towering above the tidy clump of foliage. Very beautiful and a more dramatic replacement for 'Gracillimus'.

3GAL \$22.95 #2320

C. 'Hinjo' Little Nicky. This is a smaller growing form of what is commonly known as the Zebra Grass. This will reach only 6 feet tall and 4 feet wide when in full flower and never flops over, unless planted in too much shade. The yellow bands on the green foliage are more closely spaced than in others and provide a better overall display. A patented selection.

3GAL \$22.95 #2340

D. 'Strictus', Porcupine Grass. This is nearly the same as 'Zebrinus', but more upright in habit and with

less tendency to flop and sprawl. The plant looks better from a distance and is preferable to 'Zebrinus' for the home landscape. Grows 9 feet tall and 5 feet wide.

3GAL \$19.95 #2646

***Molinia caerulea* 'Skyracer', Tall Purple Moor Grass.** (sun/psh)(Zones 4-8)(8x4 feet)

Realitively unknown in the US, but commonly planted in Europe, where many forms have been selected from the wild. This cultivar is grown for its exceedingly tall flowering stems to 8 feet, in comparison to the regular species at just 4 feet. This will grow in wetter soils than most other grasses and possesses a wonderful golden yellow autumn tint. The feathery plumes appear in summer and last until early winter.

2GAL \$13.45 #1949

***Muehlenbergia dumosa*, Bamboo Muhly.** (sun)(Zones 7-9)(6x4 feet)

The Bamboo Muhly hails from moist canyons and valleys of the desert southwest, where it keeps company with cactus and lizards. In gardens, it forms extremely finely textured, upright mounds of bamboo-like stems with light-green, lacy foliage. As the new season approaches, all of the old foliage lays on the ground as the new spikes emerge from the center. The effect can be best put to use in a container, where it looks like two different plants in one. Not hardy, but worth the extra effort to winter it inside the house.

2GAL \$12.95 #2870

***Panicum virgatum*, Switch Grass.** (sun)(Zones 4-9)(varies)

One of the USA's most widespread plants, occurring in nearly every ecological niche except those in the northwest and California. There are many grasses that will grow on dry ground, but few are those that will tolerate wet, and even fewer are those that tolerate both. This is one of those exemplary species that will do just this and keep on keepin' on. There are now numerous named forms from both the US and Europe that will accommodate gardens large or small and still have great impact. They also have the keen attribute of keeping their character when grown in high fertility soils, where many others flop and fault. If you are new to grasses, consider these long-lasting, durable natives for your landscape.

A. 'Cloud Nine'. One of the largest selections, impressive for its billowy late summer blooms and gun-metal blue stems and foliage. This will grow to about 8x8 feet, so leave it plenty of space to stretch its arms.

3GAL \$22.95 #2310

B. 'Dallas Blues'. A lax-stem cultivar with a buxom display of purple-blue stems and red tinted flower stems and inflorescences. Very beautiful and a standout among grasses. Grows 5-6x3-4 feet.

3GAL \$22.95 #2057

C. 'Heavy Metal'. Very tight, blue-gray clumps of narrow leaves reaching only 3-5 feet tall and 2 feet wide. The coloration is distinct among the cultivars and contrasts well with darker foliated plants.

2GAL \$13.45 #1030

D. 'Prairie Sky'. Considered to be bluer than 'Heavy Metal', but with a full, arching habit that gives quite a different look in the landscape. Grows 4-5x3-4 feet.

3GAL \$22.95 #2220

E. 'Shiere'. A tight-growing selection with foliage coloration that approximates 'Dallas Blues'. The plant grows only 4-5 feet tall and 2-3 feet wide.

3GAL \$22.95 #2361

***Pennisetum alopecuroides* 'Hameln', Dwarf Fountain Grass.** (sun)(Zones 5-9)(2.5x3 feet)

A very popular selection in our area for its tight, cascading mounds of narrow foliage and feathery foxtail inflorescences in late summer and fall. Grows well in dry situations where the soil is poor.

3GAL \$19.95 #2783

***Pennisetum orientale* 'Tall Tails', Tall Tails Fountain Grass.** (sun)(Zones 6-10)(3x3 feet)

Not well known, but one of the best Fountain Grasses for its tight, manicured habit and unusually long procession of feathery blooms from June until frost. I strongly believe people would prefer this to *P. alopecuroides* if the plant were more available. Prefers rather dry soil that is rich in nutrients.

3GAL \$24.95 #1858

Pennisetum setaceum 'Rubrum', Purple Fountain Grass.

(sun)(Zones 10-11)(4x3 feet)

If there were a hardy grass that possessed the intense purple-red color of this amazing annual, it would certainly be in every yard. This quickly grows to 4 feet tall and bears its lovely foxtail blooms throughout the summer. To get a larger clump, pull the flower spikes for the first 8 weeks or so after you plant. Not even tolerant of a little frost, and is one of the first annuals to be killed in the fall.

2GAL \$14.95 #2088

Phalaris arundinacea 'Strawberries and Cream', Variegated Reed Canary Grass.

(sun/sh)(Zones 4-8)

One of the most beautiful grasses for spring foliage and its adaptability to almost any site imaginable. This forms 2-3 foot-tall clumps of grassy green foliage heavily variegated in pink and white in spring that slowly fades to pure white in the heat of summer. This has the potential to be **very aggressive** in moist soils, so site with caution. It will grow in dry areas, but may require a haircut in late summer to rejuvenate its appearance. For those who want a low or no maintenance perennial garden (Hah!), this would be a good choice.

2GAL \$13.95 #2077

Saccharum (Erianthus) ravennae, Northern Pampas Grass.

(sun)(Zones 5-10)(10-14x4-6 feet)

Probably the tallest and most impressive grass hardy in our zone and a stunning addition to landscapes. The plant starts out the season as an unassuming clump of leaves only a few feet tall, but as the season progresses, develops its sensational flower spikes that soar skyward on bamboo-like stems. The feathery plumes are long-lasting and the stems become attractively tinged with red as the temperature cools in fall. Worth a try if you have a lot of space or just have penchant for the dramatic.

3GAL \$24.95 #2055

Schizachyrium scoparium, Little Bluestem.

(sun)(Zones 3-10)(3x2 feet)

One of the dominant grasses of the short grass prairie of plains states and an aggressive colonizer of roadcuts and abandoned fields in our area. This forms small clumps of erect, powder blue stems and leaves with a hint of red in summer. The reddish coloration becomes more apparent as autumn progresses and eventually the whole thing is absorbed in wonderful scarlet fall color. Tolerates extreme drought and very poor, rocky soils.

A. S. s. 'The Blues'. One of the best selections of this species to be introduced for its intense, icy-blue stem and leaf coloration. The red fall color is amazing and the plant seems to prefer very dry soils for best longevity and performance. Grows the same size as the species.

2GAL \$11.45 #2871

Sesleria caerulea, Blue Moor Grass.

(sun/psh)(Zones 4-10)(12x15 inches)

Little known in the US, but a charming cool season grass with narrow, dark green leaves with beautiful chalky blue undersides. The way the foliage is presented, the colors are apparent and the effect is decidedly bi-colored. The plant forms small tufts and short spikes of Allium-like blooms in spring. Grows best in moist or wet soils.

2GAL \$13.45 #2868

Sorghastrum nutans, Indian Grass.

(sun)(Zones 3-9)(4-7x3-4 feet)

One of the components of the once vast tall grass prairie of the west. This forms clumps of grassy leaves and tall spikes of poker-like inflorescences that appear in late summer. The plant is best reserved for natural planting schemes and prairie restoration projects as it can be a little too aggressive for the average landscape. Very easily grown and extremely tolerant of drought.

3GAL \$24.95 #1228

A. S. n. 'Sioux Blue'. A selection from the western edge of the species range with glaucous blue foliage and stems. Unique from typical eastern forms, this requires no water in the summer after established.

3GAL \$22.95 #2222