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GUIDE TO ORNAMENTAL GRASSES

Note: The sizes given are heights of the foliage, they do not include the plumes. Plumes can add an additional 1-2' to the plant's height.

Andropogon gerardii (Native) **Big Bluestem**

Full sun

'Blackhawks'	Upright, green foliage turns purple/black in fall.	4-5'
'Dancing Wind'	Bright green foliage with glowing red fall color.	3-4'
'Red October'	Deep green with red highlights. Purple-red fall color.	3-4'

Calamagrostis x

Feather Reed Grass

Full Sun – Light Shade

'Avalanche'	Variegated; green edges with white center	3-4'
'Karl Foerster'	Green Blades, golden fall color, sterile seeds	4-5'
'El Dorado'	Variegated; Green edges, white strip up the middle.	4-5'

Carex

Sedges

Part Shade – Full Shade
(great for wet areas)

'Evergold'	Variegated; green edges with yellow center	10"-18"
'Ice Dance'	Variegated; white edges with dark green center	12"
Pennsylvania Sedge	Very fine green blades. Tolerates dry. NATIVE	6-12"
Tussock Sedge	Rich green, fine texture. Wetlands. NATIVE	2-3'

Chasmanthium (Native)

Northern Sea Oats

Full Sun, Part-Full Shade
(great for dry or wet areas)

Northern Sea Oats	Green blade, with flat, oat-like seed heads	3-4'
'River Mist'	Variegated; striped green & white blades	2-3'

Festuca

Blue Fescue

Full Sun: Low Humidity
(needs well-drained soil)

'True Blue'	Fine-blue blades- small mound	6"-10"
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Hakonechloa

Japanese Forest Grass

Partial – Full Shade

'Albostriata'	Variegated; white and green blades.	12"-24"
'All Gold'	All Yellow-Chartreuse Blades	6"-10"
'Aureola'	Variegated; yellow & green striped blades	12"-20"
'SunFlare'	Chartreuse foliage tipped with crimson-red.	12"-24"

<i>Helictotrichon</i>	Blue Oat Grass	Full Sun: Low Humidity (well-drained soil)	
	Narrow blue blades		18"-24"
<i>Miscanthus</i>	Maiden Grass	Full Sun (6 hrs)	
‘Adagio’	Fine, green blade. Fountain-like shape		4’
‘Goldbar’	Horizontal yellow bands. Upright habit, purple plumes.		4-5’
‘Gold Breeze’	Wide, yellow striped blades. Tight, upright.		5’-6’
‘Gracillimus’	Fine green blade. Upright, cascading.		6’
‘Little Zebra’	Narrow, yellow striped blades. Fountain-like.		3’
‘Malepartus’	Wide, green blade. Upright. Plumes midsummer.		5’-6’
‘Morning Light’	Narrow, variegated blade. Upright, cascading.		5’-6’
‘Oktoberfest’	Plumes early. Excellent fall color.		6-7’
Purpurascens	Wide, green blade. Upright, spreading.		3’-4’
‘Strictus’	Wide, yellow striped blades. Tight, upright.		6’-7’
‘Variegatus’	Wide, white variegated blades. Upright, cascading.		5’-6’
<i>Molinia</i>	Purple Moor Grass	Full Sun	
‘Variegata’	White variegated blade. Needs adequate moisture.		12"-18"
<i>Muhlenbergia</i> (Native)	Pink Muhly Grass	Full Sun-part shade	
‘Undaunted Ruby’	Cold-hardy (Zone 5). Ruby seed heads in late summer.		24-36"
<i>Panicum</i> (Native)	Switch Grass	Full Sun	
‘Dallas Blues’	Extra wide, gray-blue blade. Large plume		4-6’
‘Northwind’	Olive-green blade. Narrow, upright.		5’
‘Ruby Ribbons’	Green-blade, red-purple tips. Upright.		3’
‘Shenandoah’	Green blade. Upright, Columnar. Red fall color.		3’-4’
<i>Pennisetum</i>	Fountain Grass	Full Sun	
‘Burgundy Bunny’	Green blade with red tips. Mounding, spreading.		12"-15"
‘Hameln’	Narrow green blades. Upright, arching.		24"-30"
‘Karley Rose’	Medium, green blades. Upright, spreading.		2’-3’
‘Piglet’	Narrow green blades. Upward, arching.		18"
‘Red Head’	Wide, green blades. Upright, spreading.		3’-4’
<i>Schizachyrium</i> (Native)	Little Bluestem	Full Sun	
‘Blue Heaven’	Fine, blue-green blades. Very upright.		24"-30"
‘Carousel’	Fine, blue-green blades. Upright.		24"-30"
‘Smoke Signal’	Upright growth habit. Turns red-purple early.		24-30"
‘Standing Ovation’	Fine, blue-green blades. Very upright.		24"-30"