

GRASS INFORMATION

Grasses for Shade

- *Sedges (Carex spp.)
- *Northern Sea Oats (Chasmanthium latifolium)
- *Japanese Forest Grass (Hakonechloa spp.)
- *Moor Grass (Sesleria autumnalis)

Variegated Grasses

- *Giant Reed Grass (Arundo donax 'Peppermint Stick')
- *Golden Japanese Forest Grass (Hakonechloa macra 'Aureola')
- *Porcupine Grass (Miscanthus senensis 'Strictus')

Rose Companion Grasses

- *Lemon Grass (Cymbopogon citratus) annual
- *Variegated Japanese Silver Grass (Miscanthus sinensis 'Variegatus')

Pots and Planters

- *Northern Sea Oats (Chasmanthium latifolium)
- *Fiber Optic Grass (Isolepis cernau) annual
- *Black Mondo Grass (Ophiopogon planiscapus 'Nigrescens')
- *Fountain Grass (Pennisetum Burgundy Bunny, Hameln, 'Little Bunny')

Hot Dry Sites

- *Blue Fescue (Festuca glauca)
- *Little Blue Stem (Schizachyrium scoparium)

Moisture Lovers

- *Feather Reed Grass (Calamagrostis acutiflora 'Karl Foerster')
- *Switch Grass (Panicum virgatum)
- *Miscanthus species, Rushes and Sedges

Fall Color

- *Red Flame Grass (Miscanthus 'Purpurascens')
- *Little Blue Stem (Schizachyrium scoparium)

Ground Covers

- *Golden Japanese Forest Grass (Hakonechloa macra)
- *Fountain Grass (Pennisetum alopecuroides 'Little Bunny')
- *Blue Moor Grass (Sesleria caerulea)
- *Prairie Dropseed (Sporobolus heterolepis)
- *Japanese Blood Grass (Imperata cylindrica 'Red Baron')

Salt tolerant

- *Calamagrostis acutiflora 'Karl Forester'-Feather Reed Grass
- *Eragrostis spectabilis-Purple Love Grass
- *Festuca glauca 'Elijah Blue'-Blue Fescue
- *Miscanthus species and cultivars-Maiden Grass

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures. He leads beside still waters. He restoreth my soul.
Psalm 23: 2

- *Panicum virgatum-Switch Grass
- *Sporobolus heterolepis-Prairie Dropseed
- *Chasmanthium latifolium-Northern Sea Oats
- *Erianthus ravennae Grass

Tolerates seasonal changes (from flood to drought)

- *Calamagrostis acutiflora 'Karl Foerster'
- *Panicum virgatum
- *Schizachyrium scoparium
- *Sesleria autumnalis
- *Sporobolus heterolepis

CARE OF GRASSES

GROWING AND MAINTAINING GRASSES

Low maintenance and easy to care for
Not bothered much by pests or diseases

SOIL PREPARATION

Loosen and weed area before planting
Dig hole just deep enough that the crown of the grass is even with the soil. Apply a layer of mulch
Best time to plant is Spring. Wait until night temperatures average 45-50 degrees for 2 weeks, which is usually beginning of May

FERTILIZATION

Do not really need much. Excess fertility can result in grass becoming floppy
A layer of good compost or other organic matter once a year is OK

WATERING

First year after planting, water regularly to get a good root system established
Their roots run deep- many are drought tolerant
Sedges and rushes do good in moist soil

MULCHING

Good for controlling weeds and conserving soil moisture
Do not mulch close to the crown (it can rot)
Mulching especially needed if grass was planted later in the Fall

CUTTING BACK

Tools needed; pruners, shears, bow saw, electric hedgers or sawsall
Tie a rope or plastic tie around grass clump
Cut through right below rope (leave about 4"-6" of grass)
Time to cut is early spring

DIVIDING

Rejuvenates overgrown grass
Tools needed; sharp spade, knife and strong back

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures. He leads beside still waters. He restoreth my soul.
Psalm 23: 2

The time to divide is spring

DESIGNING

Grasses are the dancing notion in your garden

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