

Recommended Grasses

September brings our North Texas summer to an end and the beginning of our fall planting season. Throughout most of the year ornamental grasses have grown bushy and full and fall is their time to dazzle us with their plumes of color. Here are our recommendations for our most popular and reliable varieties of perennial grasses by height.

Small (less than 3' tall)



Mexican Feather Grass: *Nassella tenuissima* (*Stipa tenuissima*), Deciduous, full sun/part shade, smaller grass with a very fine, wispy look. Delicate whitish flowers appear in summer. Clumping, spreads by seed. Must have well drained soil. Averages 2' high x 2' wide.

Seep Muhly: *Muhlenbergia reverchonii*, Evergreen, full sun/part shade. Low bunch grass. Fast growing. Native to Limestone, TX. Straw and mauve fine textured seed head. Can tolerate most soil conditions. Average 2' high x 2' wide.



'Hameln' Dwarf Fountain Grass: *Pennisetum alopecuroides* 'Hameln', deciduous, full sun/part shade, compact rounded grass. Great for mass plantings. Abundant small white cat-tail like plumes in summer. Requires well-drained soil. Full sun is best. 2 ½' high x 3' wide.

Little Bluestem: *Schizachyrium scoparium*, Deciduous, full sun. A clump grass with bluish green foliage for any soil type. Flower spikes emerge late summer. Averages 2 ½' high x 2' wide. Fall color is bronze to flaming orange. Prefers minimum to zero watering.



Medium (3' – 5' tall)



Inland Sea Oats: *Chasmathium latifolium*, deciduous, part shade. Also known as Northern Sea Oats. Grows best in rich, fertile soil. Flat flowers look like oats dangling from slender stems. "Oats" turn copper color in fall. Averages 3' high x 2' wide.

Gulf Muhly: *Muhlenbergia capillaries*, Deciduous, full sun/part shade, medium grass with a very fine, wispy look. Looks like a purple cloud in the fall when in bloom. Clumping. Can tolerate moist or dry soils. Averages 3-4' high x 3-4' wide.



'Adagio' Dwarf Maiden Grass: *Miscanthus sinensis* 'Adagio', Deciduous, full sun/part shade. Loose clumping habit. Fast growing. Loose pinkish-bronze plumes in summer. Requires well-drained soil. Drought tolerant. Averages 4' high x 4-5' wide.

'Gold Bar' Dwarf Zebra Grass: *Miscanthus sinensis 'Gold Bar' PP15193*, Deciduous, full sun/part shade. Smaller variety of the original grass. Lots of horizontal yellow blade stripes. Burgundy flowers emerge in late summer. Tolerant of most soil conditions. Even moisture is best. Averages 4' high x 4' wide.



Dwarf Pampas Grass: *Cortaderia sellonana 'Pumila'*, Evergreen, full sun/part shade. A smaller version of the larger dramatic plant looks good massed together. White fluffy blooms late summer to fall. Any soil type is fine but not tolerant of cold and wet sites. Averages 4-6' high x 5-7' wide.

Tall (5' and taller)

Maiden Grass: *Miscanthus sinensis 'Gracillimus'*, deciduous grass, full sun/part shade. Large arching clumping grass. Good vertical shape. Needs plenty of space. Loose cream plumes in summer. Requires well drained soil. Drought tolerant. Averages 5-6' high x 5' wide.



Lindheimer Muhly: *Muhlenbergia lindheimeri*, Evergreen, full sun/part shade. Medium grass with a very fine, wispy look. Fast growing. Delicate upright bluish green leaves. Whitish spikes, clumping habit. Can tolerate most soil conditions. Averages 5-6' high x 5-6' wide.

Zebra Grass: *Miscanthus sinensis 'Zebrinus'*, deciduous, full sun/part shade. Ornamental grass that has horizontal banding on the leaves. Looks good as a specimen or grouped together. Likes moisture but needs well drained soil. Averages 6-7' high x 6-7' wide.



Pampas Grass: *Cortaderia selloana*, Evergreen, full sun/part shade. A large dramatic plant that looks good massed or used as a screen. White fluffy blooms in late summer to fall. Any soil type is fine but not tolerant of cold and wet sites. Averages 10-12' high x 10-12' wide.

There are many other grasses out there, but these are readily available throughout the year. Most grasses prefer half-day or more of sun, are drought tolerant and need only minimal care. As always, we are here to help. Bring in a snapshot of the area you'd like to add grasses and we can help you choose.