

***Acorus gramineus* (Japanese Sweet Flag)**

Sweet flag is evergreen; it likes moist soil and takes either sun or shade. It grows about 12".

'Minimus Aureus' is a miniature (4") variety with yellow foliage, great for between stepping stones and in containers.

'Ogon' is a tufted variety with brilliant yellow variegated foliage. Good for wet soils.

'Variegatus' has cream and green variegated foliage, and is great for containers.

***Andropogon gerardii* 'Blackhawks' (Big Bluestem)**

Deep green to purple foliage, deepening to almost black. 4-5'. Small open purple flowers in August. Likes sun.

***Anemathela lessoniana* AKA- *Stipa arundinacea* (Pheasant Grass)**

This evergreen grass forms dense tussocks of arching, fine textured foliage that is medium green in summer, with various gold and orange tints appearing in winter. It likes a sunny, well-drained location and grows 2-3' tall.

***Bouteloua gracilis* 'Blonde Ambition' (Grama Grass)**

Grama grass is a semi-evergreen, 3' tall grass with bluish-green foliage. It has tall golden inflorescences in summer followed by very long-lasting blonde seedheads.

***Briza media* (Rattle Grass or Quaking Grass)**

Quaking grass is a low growing (12") green grass with heart shaped seed pods that shimmer in a breeze. It makes a good cut flower. Evergreen; shear in late summer to remain attractive into the winter. Plants will self-sow. It likes sun and rich fertile soil.

***Calamagrostis x acutiflora* (Variegated Feather Reed Grass)**

This grass like sun or partial shade and moist soil. It dies back in winter. The inflorescences begin with a strong purple-red tint, fading to silver-gray, remaining open and feathery. Blooms dry well.

'Avalanche' Green and white variegated foliage, wider blades than 'Overdam'. 3-4'.

'Karl Foerster' is a great vertical accent, with green blades and early flowers. The flowers are reddish-bronze turning buff. 2-3'.

'Overdam' has flower spikes rising 2' above green and white variegated foliage. 1-3'.

***Carex comans* (New Zealand Hair Sedge)**

Narrow, silvery leaves can reach 6' long if undisturbed. Will mound to about 1 1/2', then lie limp; will flow like water over wall or slope. Likes sun or shade and moist soil.

'Amazon Mist' Silvery green foliage with twisted tips. Misty appearance. 10-12".

'Bronze' Nice bronze form. 16-20".

'Frosted Curls' Recurved leaves are striped white and green, giving a silvery effect.

***Carex dipsacea* (Autumn Sedge)**

This 2-3' evergreen sedge has foliage which is reddish green at the base becoming more orange at the tips. It likes sun and moist to boggy soil.

Carex elata 'Aurea' (Bowles Golden Sedge)

This graceful plant grows upright to about 30". The leaves are mostly yellow with faint random longitudinal green stripes. Yellow color is more intense in sun. Shady siting is necessary in drier soils, in which case leaves are rich lime-yellow in color. In boggy moist soil, it will take full sun. Not evergreen.

Carex morrowii

This is a 12-18" clump-forming sedge with stiff, arching, pointed evergreen leaves. It likes sun or shade and moist soil.

'Aureomarginata' or **'Aureo-Variegata'** – see *C. oshimensis* 'Evergold.'

'Ice Dance' is a creeping groundcover version with distinct creamy white margins.

'Silver Scepter' has consistent creamy variegation.

Carex oshimensis

Generally 13-24" high, forming a 12-30" clump. Likes shade to part sun and regular water.

'Evercolor® Evercream' is rich green edged with cream. Grows to about 20" X 20".

'Evercolor® Everest' is dark green edged with white. Grows to about 20" X 20".

'Evercolor® Everglow' has brightly colored, changing foliage; the green is edged with tangerine in colder weather, yellow to white in warmer. Grows to about 13-24" X 12-18".

'Evercolor® Everillo' emerges lime green, turns to golden yellow. Grows to about 20" X 20".

'Evercolor® Everlite' is smaller (6-12") with striped foliage—white or cream edged dark green.

'Evercolor® Everoro' is golden yellow edged with dark green. Grows to about 16" X 16".

'Evercolor® Eversheen' is lime to yellow edged with dark green. Grows to about 16" X 16".

'Evergold' is cream to butter yellow, edged with dark green. Grows to about 6-12" X 8-12".

'Feather Falls' is green edged yellow, gracefully cascading. Grows to about 13-24" X 12-18".

Carex tenuiculmis 'Cappuccino'

Red-bronze 16" foliage, nice clumping form. Evergreen. Likes moist rich soil and sun to part shade.

Carex testacea (Orange Sedge)

Orange sedge has 18" evergreen copper-brown foliage, turning more orange in the winter. Clump forming, great accent. Orange sedge is very undemanding—it takes sun or part shade and drought to moist soil.

'Prairie Fire' is olive with orange highlights; it turns rich russet-orange in winter.

Cortaderia selloana (Pampas Grass)

One of the best known ornamental grasses, Pampas Grass is a 4-10' evergreen fountain of grassy leaves topped by plumes of silver, ivory, tan or pink inflorescences. The flowers are often dried. It likes sun and tolerates most soils and drought.

'Ivory Feathers' (aka **'Pumila'**) is a lower growing (3-4') variety with ivory inflorescences.

'Pink Feather' sports delicate pink inflorescences hovering over leaves. It gets 6-10'.

'Silver Feather' Silvery plumes can reach 12'. Foliage 6-8'.

'Sun Stripe' is another smaller one—4-6'. It has yellow striped foliage and silvery plumes.

***Deschampsia cespitosa* 'Northern Lights' (Tufted Hair Grass)**

Leaves with creamy-white longitudinal stripes, sometimes suffused pink in cool season. Likes sun or part shade and rich, moist soil. 18" tall, not evergreen.

***Elymus magellanicus* (Blue Wheat Grass)**

18" clump forming grass with the most intense blue of all the grasses. Likes light shade in the afternoon and sharply drained soil. Semi-evergreen.

***Festuca glauca* (Blue Fescue)**

The classic silvery-blue fine-textured evergreen clumping grass for containers and borders. Foliage is about 9". Likes sun and well-drained soil, tolerates drought once established.

'Beyond Blue' The bluest fescue yet, 6-12" tall.

'Boulder Blue' Metallic blue. About 8" tall.

'Elijah Blue' Beautiful blue foliage holds its color all year. Durable, classic selection.

***Hakonechloa macra* (Japanese Forest Grass)**

This 12-14" cascading grass truly is a forest dweller; it likes shade and moist well-drained soil.

'Albo-striata' has thick and thin white stripes on a green background. It tolerates a bit more sun than most varieties.

'All Gold' forms pure gold gracefully weeping mounds. Flows nicely in the wind.

'Aureola' is a slow spreading cream-white to yellow variegated form. Cooler temperatures in spring and fall bring tinges of pink and red to the foliage.

'Beni Kaze' means 'Red Wind'; rich green foliage turns astonishing burgundy red in the fall.

'Sunflare' emerges chartreuse with crimson highlights, turning gold with burgundy in more sun. Fall color is chartreuse to gold with burnt orange and burgundy accents.

***Helictotrichon sempervirens* (Blue Oat Grass)**

An all-time favorite, this silvery evergreen blue grass blends well in a perennial border or large container. It produces a dense tufted 2' clump. Delicate inflorescences appear in late spring. It likes sun and fertile well-drained soil.

'Sapphire Blue' is bluer than the species, with light tan inflorescences.

***Imperata cylindrica* 'Red Baron' (Japanese Blood Grass)**

20" leaves are upright, emerging green at the base and red at the tips in spring. The red increases over summer becoming solid and intense in late summer and autumn. It likes sun and moist fertile soil.

Isolepsis cernua* (Fiber Optic Grass)—aka *Scirpus cernuus

Very fine, 12" bright green leaves are tipped with tiny inflorescences looking like fiber optic beads. Likes sun and moist fertile soil. Evergreen

Juncus effusus (Soft Rush)

Architecturally interesting 12-15" evergreen bog plant. Many have spiral foliage. Likes sun.

'Lemon Swirl' A curly rush with a lemon-yellow streak on each stem.

'Spiralis' is the standard spiral form with darker foliage.

'Twister' is a spiral form with thicker and shorter foliage than 'Spiralis'.

Juncus inflexus (European Meadow Rush)

Very similar to Soft Rush, but powder-blue 10" stems are thicker and the plant is more robust. It will tolerate some drought once established. Likes sun.

'Afro' (aka **'Blue Medusa'**) has wildly twisted leaves.

'Blue Arrows' is a stiff upright form.

Juncus patens (California Gray Rush)

This 18-24" rush likes moist or boggy soils but tolerates some drought. Stiffly upright form. Likes sun.

'Elk Blue' has nice blue foliage and is a little shorter than the species.

Liriope muscari (Blue Lily Turf)

Lily turf is not a grass at all, but as it is a clump-forming 12-18" evergreen perennial with narrow foliage, it is often used as a small grass. It has dark green foliage and violet blooms similar to grape hyacinth. Many varieties are available. It likes partial to full shade and rich moist soil.

Liriope spicata (Creeping Lily Turf)

This is the shorter (8") groundcover lily turf with white to purple blooms. Some variegated varieties are available. Again, it likes partial to full shade and rich moist soil.

Miscanthus sinensis (Maiden Grass)

Miscanthus is a graceful evergreen grass with highly decorative flowers which start as tassels and open into airy plumes. It likes full sun and moist, well-drained soil.

'Adagio' A superior form for its consistent production of inflorescences that extend beyond the tops of foliage. Leaves narrow and green. August bloom. 5-6'.

'Arabesque' Compact grass to 5 feet tall with green leaves. August bloom.

'Gold Bar' is a spectacular dwarf form with narrow green foliage striped horizontally with gold. October bloom. Grows to 2-4'.

'Huron Sunrise' has especially full, long-lasting burgundy blooms. Foliage is green with a silver rib. 5-6'.

'Gracillimus' (Slender Maiden Grass) is a dwarf form with narrow green foliage and a nice vase shape. October bloom. 2-4'.

'Little Miss' is a dwarf form with pink-toned foliage. Foliage stays green in center of clump, turning pink to purple at edges. Red blooms in late summer. 2-3'.

'Little Zebra' is a dwarf form with foliage striped green and yellow. Red blooms in late summer. 3-4'.

'Morning Light' has fine textured, arching foliage which appears silver from a distance. Excellent rounded form which blooms late with reddish flowers. 4'.

'Purpurescens' (Flame Grass) has green foliage which turns brilliant red in fall, contrasting with the silvery inflorescences. 3-4'.

'Strictus' (Porcupine Grass) has dense green and yellow foliage. White plume flowers. 3-4'.

'Variegatus' The white-striped foliage of this antique cultivar provides the strongest white landscape effect of all the Miscanthus. Blooms mid-September, strongly red-tinted. 7'.

'Yaku Jima' (Dwarf) Not a cloned cultivar; a name used for compact, narrow leaved forms usually less than 5'.

Molinia caerulea (Variegated Moor Grass)

Moor grass is a deciduous, graceful grass that tolerates low soil fertility, acid soil, and either sun or part shade. It is a slow grower to about 3' and is good in containers.

'Sky Racer' is taller (to 4-5') than the species with a good inflorescence.

'Variegata' has strongly variegated foliage- both flowers and foliage turn golden in fall.

Ophiopogon japonicus (Mondo Grass)

Not a grass at all, but a clump-forming evergreen plant with narrow foliage, so it's often used like a small grass. It has small violet flowers and dark green foliage, and grows 6-8" tall, spreading slowly in a clump. It likes partial to full shade and moist soil.

Ophiopogon japonicus 'Nanus' (Dwarf Mondo Grass)

Extremely dwarf form of Mondo Grass grows only 4" tall. Often used as a groundcover or in rock gardens.

Ophiopogon planiscapus 'Nigrescens' (Black Mondo Grass)

Again, not a true grass, but used like one. Very dark foliage. Black Mondo is a slow spreader—great for rock gardens or edging. It likes partial to full shade and moist soil. 6-8" tall.

Panicum virgatum (Blue Switch Grass)

Blue switch grass has very upright, stiff stems usually growing 24-36". Tolerant of any soil from droughty to moist, it's an excellent choice for a blue accent in any sunny location.

'Heavy Metal' has leaves that are metal-blue and strictly upright. Stems never lean or flop. Strong pink tones in inflorescence.

'Hot Rod' has blue-green foliage turning burgundy red in summer. Grows 3-5'.

'Prairie Sky' has wide powder-blue leaves. Silvery panicles. Grows 3-5'.

'Shenandoah' Unmatched for burgundy fall color. Leaves green in early summer taking on dark red tones by July and turning wine-colored by September.

Pennisetum alopecuroides (Fountain Grass)

Leaves are narrow to ½ inch wide, green in summer turning golden in autumn. Variable height to 3'. Inflorescences are dense spike-like racemes ("foxtails"). Cut back before seed is produced to prevent self-sowing. Like full sun and moist soil.

'Burgundy Bunny' has red-tinged new foliage, puffy buff flowers. Burgundy-red in fall. 12-18."

'Hameln' Compact clumps of coarse dark green blades. Buff colored flowers in fall. 1-2'.

'Little Bunny' is the smallest of the dwarf fountain grasses at 8-12". Great for rock gardens.

***Pennisetum glaucum* 'Purple Baron' (Purple Baron Millet)**

Deep burgundy, almost black foliage to 30-40" and long-lasting red-purple cattail-like flower spikes. Not hardy in the Northwest; grow as an annual. Likes sun but will take shade (foliage gets lighter in the shade); needs regular water.

Pennisetum orientale

Low growing, compact and exceptionally floriferous when grown. Blooms from late June into October. Inflorescences fluffy, nearly white with strong pearlescent-pink tints in cool season. Leaves green to gray-green. To 3-4'. Likes sun and well-drained soil. Not evergreen.

'Karly Rose' Flowers on this cultivar are rose to purple.

***Schizachyrium scoparium* (Little Bluestem)**

A native prairie grass, the blue foliage turns reddish-bronze in fall then turning a buff color through the winter. Cut back every spring for fresh growth. Likes sun and well drained soil.

'Standing Ovation' 36-48", silvery inflorescence, blue-green foliage developing fiery tones of copper, purple, and red in fall

***Stipa gigantea* (Giant Feather Grass)**

Large, stately, and elegant. Leaves to 1/8 inch wide forming 20" tuft. Blooms June to August, the loose open panicles held high above the foliage. Can grow to 8' tall. The spikelets are golden with awns to 5" long, especially dramatic when wind blows. Superb for dried arrangements. Likes sun and well-drained soil.

***Stipa tenuissima* (aka *Nassella tenuissima*) (Mexican Feather Grass)**

Mexican feather grass is a compact (18-24"), slow-growing, fine textured mounding evergreen grass with wispy, buff-colored seed heads. Likes sun or part shade and well-drained soil.

Phormium (New Zealand Flax), Cordyline (Dracaena), Dianella, and Yucca may be used similarly to grasses in some situations. They are dramatic architectural plants characterized by clumps of stiff swordlike leaves.