

Russell's Ornamental Grasses

Name	Feature	Conditions	Hgt	Zone	Recommended Varieties
Acorus gramineus <i>Japanese Sweet Flag</i>	Not a true grass. Useful in wet, shady locations. Aromatic sword-shaped leaves.	P-Sun-Shade Moist or up to 3" standing water	6-12"	5	'Variegata'
Andropogon gerardii <i>Big Bluestem</i>	NATIVE to North America. Purple flowers in late summer, good bronze fall color persists into winter. Quite tolerant of drought and heat	Sun-Shade Average to fer- tile soil	4-6'	4	
Arundo donax <i>Giant Cane</i>	Vigorous, upright canes support corn-like horizontal leaves. Flowers are fluffy panicles 18-24" long, holding well into winter. May not flower in cold climates.	Sun-PS Moist well drained soil.	15'	6	
Calamagrostis acutiflora <i>Feather Reed Grass</i>	One of the best medium-sized grasses. Flowers are erect and turn straw-colored, persisting until late winter.	Sun Average Soil	4'	5	'Peppermint Stick'
Calamagrostis brachytricha <i>Korean Feather Grass</i>	Clumping green foliage, showy pink-to-wheat colored spikes in late summer. Strong vertical accent that is early to leaf and flower. Good winter appearance.	Sun Needs even moisture	3-5'	5	'Avalanche' 'Eldorado' 'Karl Foerster' 'Overdam'
Carex flacca (C. glauca) <i>Blue Sedge</i>	A slowly creeping rhizomatous grass with blue-gray foliage. Good ground cover and filler. In spring, cut back foliage to 2" or 3" above the crown.	Sun Moist soil	6"	4	
Carex morrowii <i>Japanese Sedge</i>	Mostly green leaves with narrow silver edges. Attractive evergreen through winter. Good choice for shaded locations. Drought tolerant once established.	PS-Shade Moist soil	15-18"	5	'Gold Band' 'Ice Dance' 'Variegata'
Carex siderosticha	Striking Asian sedge with broad leaves. Spreads slowly from underground stems. Good groundcover.	PS-Shade Moist soil	6-8"	5	'Banana Boat'
Chasmanthium latifolium	Sturdy and upright. Showy broad, flat flowers in late summer; bamboo-like foliage with coppery winter color. NATIVE	Sun-Shade	3'	3	'River Mist'
Deschampsia caespitosa <i>Tufted Hair Grass</i>	Dark green, semi-evergreen foliage, loose airy panicles.	PS	12-30"	4	
Eragrostis spectabilis	Light green blades turn reddish bronze in fall. Airy panicles of purple inflorescence appear to float over the foliage in summer/fall. NATIVE	Sun Well drained soil	18-24"	5	

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Elymus arenarius	Rhizomatic habit makes it excellent for erosion control. Drought tolerant; can be invasive in moist, fertile soils.	Sun-PS	1-3'	4	'Glaucus'
Erianthus ravennae <i>Hardy Pampass Grass</i>	Large clumping grass with silvery flower spikes that can reach 8-10'. Foliage turns different shades of beige, brown, and rust in fall.	Sun-PS Moist Well drained soil	4-5'	5/6	
Festuca ovina glauca <i>Blue Fescue</i>	A cool-season grass with attractive blue-gray foliage. Heat and drought may slow growth	Sun Moist Well drained soil	6-8"	4	'Boulder Blue' 'Elijah Blue'
Hakonechloa macra <i>Japanese Forest Grass</i>	A delicate, cascading, bamboo-like grass for the shade that spreads slowly. Prefers moist, well-drained soil with light shade. Foliage tends to burn in hot sun.	PS Moist Well drained soil			'Albo Striata' 'All Gold' 'Aureola' 'Beni Kaze'
Helictotrichon sempervirens <i>Blue Oat Grass</i>	Clumping blue foliage with golden, wheat colored flowers 1-2' above the leaves in summer.	Sun Well drained soil	18-24"		'Sapphire'
Imperata cylindrical <i>Japanese Blood Grass</i>	Vertical leaves are green at the base and crimson at the top. By fall, the whole plant is blood-red and, once dormant, its color fades to copper.	Sun-PS Moist soil	12-18"		'Red Baron' (syn. 'Rubra')
Holcus mollis <i>Creeping Velvet Grass</i>	Spreading, mat-forming evergreen grass. Purplish white flower spikes in summer. Useful as a ground cover or edging.	Sun-PS Light sandy soil	18-24"	5	'Albovariegatus'
Koeleria glauca <i>Blue Hair Grass</i>	Compact mounds of blue-gray foliage. Showy blue-green flowers in June which grow 8-12" above the foliage and fade to a golden brown.	Sun Well drained soil	8-12"	4	
Liriope muscari <i>Lily Turf</i>	Evergreen grass-like foliage, effective for edging or groundcover. Spreads slowly. Profuse flowers	PS-Shade Well drained soil	8-18"	5	'Big Blue'
Liriope spicata <i>Creeping Lily Turf</i>	Similar to L. muscari except that it spreads aggressively	PS-Shade Well drained soil	10-12"	4	'Silver Dragon'
Molinia caerulea <i>Purple Moor Grass</i>	Cream and green variegated foliage with purple tassels that fade to brown.	Sun-PS Moist, acidic soil	24-30"	4	'Moor' 'Variegata'
Molinia arundinacea <i>Tall Moor Grass</i>	Brownish purple flowers soar above shorter clumps of dense, upright gray-green foliage. Flowers turn to graceful yellow seedheads.	Sun-PS Moist, acidic soil	7-8'	5	'Sky Racer'
Ophiopogon planiscapus <i>Black Mondo Grass</i>	Striking black foliage and purple flowers.	Sun-Shade Rich well drained	6"	6	'Nigrescens'

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Miscanthus sinensis <i>Maiden Grass</i>	Showy ornamental grasses with large persistent whisk-like tassels. Blooms from July through October. remains attractive throughout winter.	Sun Moist, well drained soil	
	Adagio - Silver gray foliage topped with pink flowers that age to white.	2'	6
	Cabaret - Wide white band down the leaf. Reddish plumes fade to tan	6'	5
	Dixieland - Colorful wide leaves with green and white stripes.	3-4'	5
	Gold Bar - Horizontally banded with gold. Very erect.	3-5'	5
	Gracillimus - Erect clumps of narrow silver and green leaves. Silvery plumes in Sept.	5'	5
	Graziella - Very narrow green leaves. Silver flowers in August. Orange-copper fall foliage.	4-5'	5
	Little Kitten - Thin silvery-green leaves. Silver plumes in Sept-Pct.	2-3'	5
	Little Zebra - Horizontal gold bands. Reddish purple plumes.	3-4'	5
	Morning Light - Narrow, variegated leaves	4-6'	4
	Purpurescens - Rich red-orange fall color. Silvery-pink plumes.	4-5'	5
	Silberfeder - Green foliage with silky white plumes in August	5-6'	4
	Strictus (Porcupine Grass) - Horizontal gold bands. Very stiff and erect.	6-9'	5
	Super Stripe - Tightly spaced horizontal bands of gold. Tawney plumes.	4'	5
	Variegatus - White and green striping	5-6'	5
Zebrinus (Zebra Grass) - Yellow horizontal bands.	5-6'	5	
Panicum virgatum <i>Switch Grass</i>	NATIVE prairie grass. Will thrive in seacoast conditions. Airy and showy flowers held 1-2' above foliage.	Sun Moist to dry Well drained soil	
	Cloud Nine - Blue foliage. Reddish brown cloudlike plumes.	6'	3
	Dallas Blues - Powder blue foliage and huge flowers that turn pink in Aug	6-8'	3
	Haense Hermes - Good red-orange fall color	6-8'	3
	Heavy Metal - Metallic blue. Stiff, upright foliage. Burgundy seed headsYellow fall color.	3-4'	3
	Northwind - Dark Green. Very rigid habit.	5'	4
	Prairie Fire - Foliage turns dark red by June and remains all season.	3'	3
	Prairie Skies - Intense blue foliage. Looser habit than 'Heavy Metal'	3-4'	3
	Ruby Ribbons - Foliage slowly turns wine red as the season progresses.	4'	4
	Shenandoah - Red flowers. Great red fall foliage	3'	3

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Pennisetum <i>Fountain Grass</i>	Attractive glossy, bright green foliage. The leaves fade to yellow and then cream in the fall. Foxtail-like tassels appear in July and persist through fall and winter.	Sun-PS Moist –dry Well drained soil			
	Cassian - Great fall color. Very similar to 'Hameln'		30-36"	5	
	Fox Trot - Arching stems of rose colored flowers. Narrow blades turn gold in fall.		4-5'	5	
	Hameln - Short, uniform. Narrow blades.		24-30"	5	
	Karley Rose - Uniform clump of green leaves, Intense, smokey rose flowers.		36-40"	5	
	Little Bunny - Heavy bloomer. Compact form.		12"	5	
	Little Honey - Similar to Little Bunny. Foliage has silver variegation.		12"	5	
	Moudry - Dark brown/black inflorescens. Makes a nice cut flower.		2-3'	5	
	Piglet - Substantial fluffy tan flower heads		18"	5	
	Redhead - Red fleathery plumes in Aug-Sept.		4'	5	
Rubrum - Stunning maroon foliage with red/purple plumes in Jun/July. Attractive container specimen. Not Hardy! Treat as an annual. Can be over-wintered inside.		4'	9		
Schizachyrium scoparium <i>Little Bluestem</i>	An upright blueish grass. The leaves turn a rich orangy wheat color in the fall. Single white hairy flower cluster at tip of each stalk. NATIVE.	Sun-PS Well drained soil	2-3'	4	
Sorghastrum nutans <i>Indian Grass</i>	A NATIVE grass of the North American prairies, Indian Grass has an upright habit with attractive fall color that changes from yellow to orange-brown.	Sun-PS Rich moist soil	3-5'	4	
Spartina pectinata <i>Prairie Cord Grass</i>	NATIVE grass that adapts to a variety of conditions. Graceful green leaves with slim yellow margins becomes effective winter foliage. Grows best in full sun and moist soil	Full Sun Moist soil	3-6'	4	'Aurea-Marginata'