

ORNAMENTAL GRASSES IN THE LANDSCAPE



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Presented by:

UCCE Master Gardeners of El Dorado County



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WHAT ARE ORNAMENTAL GRASSES?

§ True grasses (*Poaceae*)

§ Grass-like plants

§ Grass look-alikes

§ Lawns?

TYPES

Clumping grasses



Running grasses



Warm season grasses

- start growing in spring
- flourish in heat of summer
- begin dormancy in fall

Cool season grasses

- grow in winter or early spring
- thrive in cool, moist weather
- begin dormancy in summer

USES . . .

SCREENING



IN MIXED SHRUB & PERENNIAL BEDS



AS GROUND COVERS



AS SPECIMEN PLANTS & FOCAL POINTS



IN CONTAINERS



AS WINTER INTEREST





PLANT HARDINESS ZONES

- USDA
- Sunset
- American Horticulture Society heat zones

SITE CONSIDERATIONS

- Exposure
- Dry / wet areas
- Soil type

WHAT'S IN A BOTANICAL NAME?

Echinacea purpurea 'Magnus' (Purple Coneflower)



(genus)



(species)



(cultivar)



(common name)

PATENTED PLANTS

- PPAF (plant patent applied for)
- PP # (plant patent number)

PLANTING & MAINTENANCE





PLANTING

- Best time: Right now!
- Pot size / spacing
- Don't amend soil
- Hole should be twice the diameter of container
- Crown should be 1-2 inches above soil line
- Add a layer of mulch & water thoroughly



MULCHING

- Decreases weeds
- Helps retain moisture
- Keeps plants cool in summer
- Gives the garden a finished look



WATERING

§ Drip emitter irrigation vs. overhead sprinklers

§ Soaker hoses

§ In-line drip irrigation (Netafim)

(Note: Drought-tolerant grasses need water until established.)



FERTILIZING

- Fertilizer labels: N – P – K
- Synthetic vs. organic

CUTTING BACK

§ When?

§ Exceptions



DIVIDING

When clumps become overgrown or centers die out

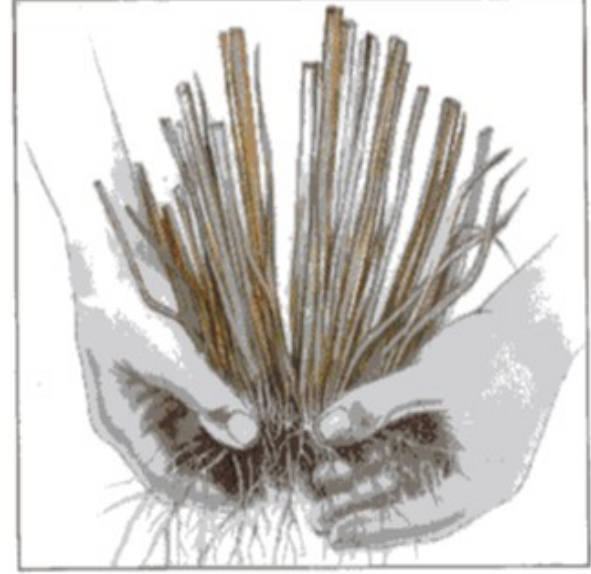


PHOTO GALLERY





Acorus gramineus 'Variegatus'
(Variegated Sweet Flag)





Andropogon gerardii
(Big Bluestem, Turkeyfoot)



Alopecurus pratensis
'Aureus'
(Yellow Foxtail Grass)



Aristida purpurea
(Purple Three-Awn)
* California Native *



Arrhenatherum elatius bulbosum
'Variegatum'
(Bulbous Oat Grass)



Bamboo





Bouteloua gracilis
(Blue Grama, Mosquito Grass)



Calamagrostis x acutiflora 'Karl Foerster'
(Feather Reed Grass)

Carex 'Ice Dance'
(Sedge)





Carex buchananii
(Leatherleaf Sedge)





Carex pansa
(California Meadow Sedge)
* California Native *





Chasmanthium latifolium
(Sea Oats)



Deschampsia cespitosa
(Hair Grass)



Elymus magellanicus
(Magellan Wheatgrass)

Festuca glauca 'Elijah Blue'
(Common Blue Fescue)





Festuca idahoensis
'Siskiyou Blue'
(Fescue)

* California Native *



Hakonechloa macra
'All Gold'
(Japanese Forest Grass)



Hakonechloa macra
'Aureola'
(Japanese Forest Grass)



Helictotrichon sempervirens
(Blue Oat Grass)



Imperata cylindrica '**Rubra**'
(Japanese Blood Grass)



Juncus effusus
(Soft Rush)



Juncus patens
(California Gray Rush)
* California Native *



Liriope muscari 'Variegata'
(Big Blue Lily Turf)



Miliium effusum
'Aureum'
(Bowles' Golden Grass)



Miscanthus sp.



Miscanthus sp.



Miscanthus sinensis
'Gracillimus'
(Eulalia, Japanese Silver Grass)



Miscanthus sinensis 'Morning Light'
(Eulalia, Japanese Silver Grass)





Miscanthus sinensis 'Variegatus'
(Eulalia, Japanese Silver Grass)





Miscanthus sinensis var. condensatus 'Cosmopolitan'
(Maiden Grass, Japanese Silver Grass)



Miscanthus x 'Giganteus'
(Giant Silver Grass)



Molinia caerulea
(Moor Grass)



Muhlenbergia capillaris
(Pink Muhly)



Muhlenbergia rigens (Deer Grass)

* California Native *



Ophiopogon japonica
(Mondo Grass)

Ophiopogon planiscapus
'Nigrescens'
(Black Mondo Grass)





Panicum virgatum 'Shenandoah'
(Switch Grass)

Pennisetum orientale
(Fountain Grass)



Photo: All Star Rents on Placerville Drive, Placerville



Pennisetum setaceum
'Rubrum'
(Purple Fountain Grass)



Phalaris arundinacea picta
(Ribbon Grass, Gardener's Garters)





Sesleria autumnalis
(Autumn Moor Grass)



Schizachyrium scoparium
(Little Bluestem)



Stipa gigantea
(Giant Feather Grass)



Stipa tenuissima
(Mexican Feather Grass)





Demonstration Garden: October 12, 2013



Thank you so much for attending



Happy Gardening!