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Monday – Friday 8:00am – 8:00pm

Saturday 8:00am – 6:00pm

Sunday 9:00am – 5:00pm

As we say goodbye to a hectic, busy spring we welcome in the hot hazy days of summer, is there any season more glorious than summer? There are many changes happening in the landscape & our perennial borders. Gone for another year are the vibrant hues of spring bulbs, Pasque flowers & Creeping Phlox. Peonies, Lupins & Iris's have just finished their display, Delphinium's, Shasta daisies & Lillium are strutting their stuff. Liatris, Phlox & Coneflowers are waiting the wings while grasses are starting to shine. Read on to learn more about grasses in the landscape & exciting new varieties now available.

We are still bringing in weekly shipments of prime nursery stock & lots of perennials full of colour. Summer is still an excellent time to plant & we have the product, whether it is a large shade tree to create instant shade or a new perennial border full of colour. Got some 'holes' in that garden, come in & see what's in colour to fill that empty space. Need to screen something? What about hardy Bamboo? It grows so fast you can practically see it grow & varies in height from 2ft to 18ft in both clumping & spreading forms.

Our gift shop is full of ideas for both indoor & outdoor living; you're bound to find something for even that hard to buy for person on your list. Stained glass art panels, funky welcome plaques, magnetic mailbox covers, unique hummingbird feeders & wasp traps, outdoor lanterns, ceramic travel mugs.... the list goes on & on. Visit our exciting & intriguing gift shop today.

Gardening Tip!

Conserve water by collection of rainwater in rain barrels for watering your garden. Many available have screens to keep out mosquitoes & critters.

Grasses in the Landscape

With the huge array of textures, sizes, shapes & colours is it any wonder that ornamental grasses are growing more & more popular every season. Not to mention the trend toward low maintenance gardening. Ornamental grasses are tough, durable & in most cases drought tolerant. They are extremely versatile in the landscape, often most effective

combined with spring bulbs, annuals, other perennials, trees & shrubs. They add interest in the garden year round & once established require little care. Planted around pools or ponds ornamental grasses create a striking elegant look. Also consider them for containers combined with perennials or annuals. Why plant the overused dracaena (spike) when there are so many grasses to choose from. Sunny or shady, dry or wet soils there are grasses that fit the bill. There are many different families of grasses and often several 'cultivars' within those families. We are just listing a few of the most popular varieties & some new cultivars.

Feather Reed Grass (*Calamagrostis x acutiflora*)

Clump forming & strictly vertical '**Karl Forester**' is dark green, grows to 6ft & flowering begins in early summer. Zone 4.

'**Overdam**' is similar except the foliage is creamy white striped. Zone 5.

New this year is '**Avalanche**' (*Calamagrostis x acutiflora* 'Avalanche') a variegated selection with mauve plums appearing by mid summer. Extremely hardy, growing 3-4ft. Zone 4.

Sedge (*Carex*)

Comprises of over 1000 species mostly originating from moist habitats and often adapt to similar sites in the garden. They come in a variety of colours, shapes & sizes but are vastly underused. **Variegated Sedge** (*Carex morrowii* 'Ice Dance') is excellent for mass plantings or as a ground cover in shade or part shade. Green foliage edges with creamy white, grows 8-12". Zone 5. **Brocade Sedge** (*Carex dolichostachya* 'Gold Fountains'), with mounded green foliage edged with bright gold, growing 8-16" in sun or shade. Zone 5.

Tufted Hair Grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*)

These clump-forming varieties are superb ornamentals, which prefer moist habitats in sun or shade. '**Northern Highlights**' is a dramatic variegated selection, creamy white stripes slightly pink when cooler which grows to 10". Zone 4.

Fescue (*Festuca*)

One of the most popular, these grasses are fine textured, small to medium in size, with specimens that prefer sunny well-drained sites. **Large Blue Fescue** (*Festuca amethystine* '**Superba**') is an intense blue-silver clump forming variety, flowers in June & growing to 2ft. Zone 4. **Blue Fescue** (*Festuca glauca*) also a clump forming, silver-blue in colour & ranges in size from 6-10". **Elijah Blue & Azuit** are two of the best. Zone 4.

Japanese Forest Grass (*Hakonechloa macra*)

This slow spreader is non invasive with graceful arching stems & prefers moist organic well-drained soil. '**Aureole**' is golden variegated, depending on site situation, greener in deep shade to creamy white in sunnier areas. Grows to 14". Zone 5.

Gardening Tip!

It is natural for your lawn to go dormant in the heat of the summer. Mow to a height of 2.5", water once a week about 1" depth (1 hour) if no rain. Don't forget to feed your lawn. We recommend Rootein as a great summer fertilizer 12-5-3 which is family friendly, no pesticides, bacteria, toxins or sewage sludge.

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

This red leafed variety emerges green at the base, red at the tips in spring becoming increasingly red over summer. It spreads very slowly, upright in habit growing to 20" & prefers moist fertile soil in full sun, but drought tolerant once established. Zone 5.

The Miscanthus family consists of over 100 named cultivars & are unrivalled in the diversity of flowers, foliage, fall colour, winter interest & adaptability. There are so many excellent cultivars of *Miscanthus sinensis* including '**Gracillimus**' grows to 7ft, '**Graziella**' grows 5 to 7ft & '**Autumn Light**' grows 6 to 8ft, '**Morning Light**' uniformly variegated, grows to 5ft. All are hardy to Zone 5. *Miscanthus sinensis* '**Huron Sunrise**' is newer introduction with burgundy flowers and excellent fall colour growing 5 to 6ft. Zone 4. Brand new this year is *Miscanthus sinensis* '**Little Kitten**', a dwarf selection only growing to 2ft in sun or partial shade. Zone 5. '**Super Stripe**' **Zebra Grass** (*Miscanthus sinensis* 'Super Stripe') with lush green leaves horizontally striped. Loves the sun & heat & grows to 4ft tall. Zone 5. Also '**Gold Bar**' **Zebra Grass** (*Miscanthus sinensis* 'Gold Bar'). This dwarf selection of porcupine grass forms a graceful upright clump with horizontal stripes of bright gold yellow. Another sun lover growing 4 to 5ft tall. Zone 5.

Switch Grass (*Panicum virgatum*)

These mostly clump forming sun lovers are very drought tolerant once established. '**Heavy Metal**' is upright with blue-green stems reaching 5ft. Zone 4. '**Shenandoah**' stems are green in early summer becoming dark red by mid summer & wine coloured in the fall. Striking, growing to 4ft. Zone 4.

Fountain Grass (*Pennisetum alopecuroides*)

Graceful arching stems with beautiful foxtail like flowers. Moderately drought tolerant once established reaching 2 to 3ft. Zone 5. Another brand new variety is '**Karley Rose**' Fountain Grass (*Pennisetum orientale* 'Karley Rose'), an improved hardy variety forming upright clumps of arching dark green leaves with soft pink bottlebrush flower spikes. Golden yellow fall colour growing 2 to 3ft. Zone 5.

If you haven't been bitten by the 'grass' bug yet, give them a try, you won't be sorry. Talk to one of our nursery experts today.

Gardening Tip!

Grub problems in the soil? 'Grub Busters' beneficial nematodes are microscopic worms that seek out and destroy grubs. These natural predators should be applied in spring & early fall.

Upcoming Seminars

'Build A Pond Day' - Saturday August 19, 2006. This hands on seminar begins at 9:00am, Lunch & drinks are provided, \$30.00 per person. Call to register as space is limited.

'Ornamental Grass Seminar' - Wednesday September 13, 2006 at 6:30pm. Richard from Valleybrook Gardens will run this session including new introductions. \$10.00 per person, which is redeemable as a coupon used for purchases. Call to register as space is limited.



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Expiry: September 30, 2006