



KENNEDY'S COUNTRY GARDENS

"INSPIRING SUCCESSFUL GARDENS SINCE 1960"

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Ornamental Grasses

Ornamental Grasses are a specialty at Kennedy's. This group of plants are generally very forgiving and most varieties perform well in seaside conditions. They also give that natural look many of us desire. They provide great texture and many varieties look good through the summer, fall and winter.

ACORUS – Sweet Flag

Part Shade

gramincus 'Ogon' – A semi-evergreen grass with distinct yellow stripes along the blades. Very colorful. Tolerant to damp conditions. Grows only to 6-12". Zone 5.

gramincus 'Variegatus' – Similar to above with white stripes.

AMMOPHILA – American Beach Grass

Full sun

breviligulata - The ultimate erosion control for sandy soil and exposed locations. A wide bladed grass with rhizomatous habit that is often used to stabilize sand dunes. Grows 18-24".

ANDROPOGON- Big Bluestem

gerardii 'Lord Snowden' - Native to open woodlands and prairies, this clump forming grass tolerates many soil conditions in full sun to part shade. The powder blue foliage is exceptional on this 5-8' tall grass whose three parted seed head resembles a turkey's foot. Fall color can be beautiful shades of red, orange, tan and maroon. Hardy to zone 3.

ARRHENATHERUM- Bulbous Oat Grass

bulbosum 'Variegatum' - Variegated grass with cream margins, 12-15" tall. Clumping, oat-like spikes in May-June. Does well in shade.

ARUNDO - Giant Reed

donax 'Peppermint Stick' – This Mediterranean native can really handle the heat, keeping its color from spring through summer with a striking, white and green variegation on wide blades. Bronze-colored inflorescence in fall. Grows up to 12' tall at maturity.

BOUTELOUA - Grama

gracilis - Narrow leaves, 1-2' tall, with horizontal flower spikes. Turns purple with frost. Zone 3. North American Native.

CALAMGROSTIS - Feather Reed Grass**Full Sun/Light Shade**

acutiflora 'Avalanche'- This hardy grass offers outstanding color, form and texture. The form is upright and narrow growing to 5' tall yet only 24" wide. The blades are deep green with white band down the center.

acutiflora 'Karl Foerster' - Earliest to flower of the Feather Reed grasses. Blooms reach 4-6' starting in June. Very upright flower spikes with basal foliage. Tolerates a variety of soils and moisture conditions. The upright form holds up well through winter. Use as a specimen or group masses. Zone 5.

arundinacea 'Overdam' – Similar to 'Karl Foerster', but with variegated green and white foliage. A little smaller, growing to 3'. Flower mid-summer and remains through winter.

brachytricha- Grows to 3', plumes August-September. Foliage turns bright yellow in fall.

x 'Cheju-Do' - 12" shorter than C. 'Karl Foerster', with equally large, showy flowers all summer. Upright & columnar with 42-48" brown-gold plumes. Sterile.

CAREX – Sedge**Part Shade**

buchananii - The unusual 'brownish' coloring of this sedge along with the curling at the tips of the leaves makes this plant an outstanding addition to any garden. This New Zealand sedge grows 1 to 2 feet. Useful at the edge of a water garden or in a drier location. Stunning planted with silver and gray foliage, especially in the sun which highlights its coppery-tones. Tufted and erect in growth with narrow foliage which is copper-bronze colored twelve months of the year. Tolerant to full sun. Z6

ciliato-marginata 'Treasure Island' - A slow spreading groundcover with white striping and edges instead of yellow like 'Island Brocade'. Grows up 9-12" tall and 12-15" wide at maturity but stays fairly compact in its first few years.

comans 'Frosted Curls'- Thin silvery leaves curl at the tips and are covered with brown seed heads. A very dense mound forming plant grows to 12".

conica 'Snowline' (Hime Kansugi)- A pretty, variegated, dwarf variety. A finely textured small grass with dark green leaves that have thin, white margins. Creates a neat clump to 6".

flacca (glauca) 'Blue Zinger'- Cool, blue tufts of grassy foliage grow 10 to 20" tall. This slow growing spreader is extremely versatile. Nice in planters too!

hachijoensis 'Ice Cream' - Striking, deep green and cream variegation. Grows to 12" tall with a spread of 12".

morrowi 'Aurea Variegata' - A low mounding evergreen grass to 12" with an attractive cream colored variegation. A hardier substitute for variegated liriopis. Especially effective when used in mass plantings. Z6

morrowii 'Ice Ballet' - A sport of C. 'Ice Dance' with a broader, more distinctive variegation than 'Ice Dance' with the same great arching habit. It's a very hardy sedge that makes a great addition to any perennial bed. Grows 1-2' tall.

morrowi 'Ice Dance' – Tufts of semi-evergreen, grass-like foliage, edged with pure white. Can be used as a slow spreading groundcover. Tolerates poor soils. Zone 5.

muskingumensis 'Oehme'- Variegated Palm Sedge- A wonderful variety with a palm-like habit and gold margins around the leaves. Grows best in moist soils. Plumes in June

siderosticha 'Island Brocade'- A handsome variety with broad, arching creamy-yellow and green foliage that is semi-evergreen and combines well with shade perennials, like hostas.

CHASMANTHIUM - Northern Sea Oats

Full Sun/Light Shade

latifolium - A three-season grass with summer flowers, fall color, and winter form. Salt tolerance makes it a fine seashore plant. Probably our finest grass. Blooms in August. May reach 3' tall. Zone 5.

latifolium 'River Mist' - Features striking, green and white variegation. White, flat, oat-like seed heads dangle from thin stems in late summer and early fall. Very versatile, tolerating light shade, coastal salt water and damp soils. Use as a specimen or planted en masse, in borders, along pond features or in containers. Grows 30-36" tall and 24-36" wide.

ELYMUS – Lyme grass

Full Sun

arenarius 'Blue Dune'- This tough, drought tolerant spreader grows 2'tall and has pastel blue foliage.

ERAGROSTIS - Love Grass

trichoides - 4' erect clusters of dark green, slightly arching foliage. Long airy panicles appear in June and last through late summer. This form thrives in light sandy soil in full sun. The flowers are good for cutting.

FESTUCA – Fescue

Full Sun

cinera 'Elijah Blue' - A small, mounding grass best used in groups and masses. 'Elijah Blue' is a much improved variety with an even better blue foliage. A good grass for winter interest. Blooms in June and July. 6-10" tall. Zone 4.

ovina glauca 'Boulder Blue'- displays exceptional powder blue color, neat form and is hardy to our area. This grass performs best in full sun and well drained soils. Awesome in containers too! Grows 8-10" tall and wide.

HAKONECHLOA- Hakone Grass

Part Sun

'Beni Kaze'- Deep green foliage that turns stunning red in fall. The texture and clump forming habit are outstanding. Grows 18-24" tall and 24 to 30" wide. Perhaps not as cold hardy (zone 6) as other Hakone grasses.

macra 'All Gold'-This plant will brighten any garden with golden yellow foliage. Nice form grows 18" tall and wide.

macra 'Aureola' – One of our favorites this variety forms mounds of green and yellow foliage. Grows 18-24" tall. One of the few grasses tolerant to shade but performs best with some sun. Great companion for perennial garden.

macra 'Naomi' - Features creamy yellow and green variegated leaves that take on cool purplish red tones in the fall. Grows 10-16" tall.

macra 'Nicolas' – A hybrid with solid green arching leaves that take on orange and red tones in the autumn adding even more interest. The colder it is, the more color you get! Grows 8-16" tall.

HELICTOTRICHON - Blue Oat Grass**Full Sun**

sempervirens - Spiky blue foliage grows to 2', with drooping panicles arching over it. Performs well in poor soil. Blooms in June. Full sun. Zone 4.

IMPERATA - Blood Grass-Not on List**Full Sun/Part Shade**

cylindrica 'Rubra' - Aptly named, as the light green blades are tipped with bright red. Prefers a sheltered location. Does not bloom. Full sun or part shade. 12-18" tall. Only hardy to zone 6.

LIRIOPE -Lily Turf**Part Shade/Shade**

muscari 'Majestica'- This clump forming perennial has dark green foliage that is narrow and blade-like. The flowers are a rich violet and bloom in summer.

muscari 'Variegata'- This variegated Lily Turf has dark green leaves with vibrant yellow stripes. An eye-catching addition to the garden with lilac colored flowers in late summer to early fall.

s. **'Silver Dragon'** – Semi-evergreen perennial groundcover. Grows 15-18" tall and spreads vigorously. Purple flowers in summer and black berries in fall. Zone 6.

MISCANTHUS - Maiden Grasses**Full Sun**

sinensis 'Dixieland' - 3-4' dwarf form of M. 'Variegatus'. Colorful, wide green leaves with white stripes.

sinensis 'Ferner Osten' - Grows 4-5' tall with reddish inflorescence Sept.-Oct. Dark foliage with a bright silver mid-rib. Vigorous grower in full sun.

sinensis 'Gold Breeze' - Shares the same parentage as M. 'Gold Bar' with very different results. It is earlier blooming and taller, at about 6', with a more arching habit and broader blades. Blades are apple green and are extremely banded in gold.

sinensis 'Gracillimus' – Maiden grass - Forms a dense clump of gracefully arching narrow leaves. Thin white stripe runs up edge of each blade. Does well in masses or as a specimen plant. Plumes start pink and turn wheat starting in October and lasting through the winter. May reach 5-7' tall with plumes. Full sun. Zone 5.

sinensis 'Little Kitten'- This dwarf form has a fine texture and blond, longlasting plumes. A purr-fect dwarf maiden grass!

sinensis 'Mysterious Maiden' - Slender foliage with golden cross variegation. Nice size, large enough to make a statement but not so big it overwhelms smaller plantings. It grows 4 feet tall and 3 feet wide.

Graceful plumes late in the season hover 1' above foliage.

sinensis 'Morning Light' – Variegated Maiden grass - Has narrow, finely variegated leaves. Similar to 'Gracillimus', but shorter(4-5' tall) and shows more white in the foliage. Starts blooming in September. Full sun. Z 5.

sinensis 'Rigaletto'- Strong, creamy white and green vertical variegation and a neat, more compact yet graceful habit. An easy to grow plant that matures at only 3' tall and wide.

sinensis 'Strictus' – Porcupine grass - One of the most dramatic grasses. Has the horizontal yellow bands of 'Zebrinus' in a spikier, narrower

package. A great specimen for the garden. Blooms in September. May reach 6-7' by the end of the season. Full sun. Zone 4.

sinensis 'Variegatus' - Old standby that still deserves another look. Showiest variegation of the species, will tolerate a little bit of shade, yet will prosper in the heat. Blooms in August & September to 5-6'. Zone 5.
sinensis 'Yaku Jima' – Dwarf Maiden grass collected from Yaku Jima Island by the U.S. National Arboretum. Silvery-white plumes in August last well into the winter. May reach 3-4' with plumes. Full sun. Zone 5.

MOLINIA- Purple Moor Grass

caerulea 'Variegata' – This grass has is small with tufts of wide, foliage that have creamy yellow edges. Airy yellow plumes rise above the foliage in summer. Only grows to 8” tall and wide.

MUHLENBERGIA

Full Sun

capillaris 'Regal Mist'- This neat clump forming grass has outstanding purple-pink, misty flower heads in summer. Matures at 2' by 2'.

NASSELLA- Mexican Feather Grass

Full Sun

tenuissima - Among the finest of all ornamental grasses. Produces a dense green fountain of hair-like leaves and threadlike stems ending in silvery inflorescences with awns more than 3" long. Blooms June to September. Delicate and easily moved by breezes. Very drought tolerant. Grows to 24". A Texas native, marginally hardy to zone 6.

OPHIPOGON-Mondo Grass

Sun/Part Sun

Japonicas - Clumps of stemless dark green almost black grass-like evergreen leaves makes a beautiful small scale groundcover or low border. Tiny spikes of lilac flowers appear in summer. Very easy to grow. Creates 12-15” mound.

p. 'Nigrescens' - Black foliated grass-like plant. Slow grower. About 6" tall. Full sun/part shade. Evergreen foliage or “everblack” in this case. Z6

PANICUM – Switch Grass

Full Sun/Part Shade

virgatum 'Dallas Blues' Switch Grass– This cultivar of our native Switch grass has silvery- blue foliage throughout the growing season. The plants are reliable and maintain upright form. Plumes in late summer. Grows to about 3-4' tall and wide.

virgatum 'Prairie Sky'- Handsome plants with erect form, blue-green stems and graceful, drooping leaves. Another hybrid of our native grass with subtle blue panicles in summer.

virgatum 'Shenandoah' - This new variety from Germany is the shortest and slowest growing of the Panicums. Blooms are red August through September. Likes full sun to part shade. Grows to 3'.

x 'Ruby Ribbons'- Offers outstanding color! Foliage is metallic blue with red tones in summer. Late summer to fall, in the cooler weather, red becomes dominant color. Pretty plumes too! Grows 4-5' tall & 3' wide.

PENNISETUM - Fountain Grass

Full Sun

alopecuroides 'Hameln' – Dwarf Fountain grass - Has all the beauty of the larger form condensed to a compact size to 3' tall and wide. A wonderful addition to the garden or for use in containers. Blooms August to October. Can use plumes for cutting. Full sun. Zone 6.

alopecuroides 'Little Bunny' – Miniature Fountain grass –

A cute, cuddly little edger for the front of the border or rock garden.

Grows about 12" tall. Blooms in August to October. Full sun. Zone 6.

alopecuroides 'Piglet' - This new dwarf fountain grass that is taller than 'Little Bunny' and shorter than 'Hameln'. It has fine textured foliage growing up to 18" tall in flower. It also features more substantial, fluffy, tan flower heads emerging from its fine, compact foliage clumps in summer. 24" wide. Propagation is prohibited.

alopecuroides 'Redhead' - This fountain grass cultivar produces red, feather-like plumes Aug.-Sept.; a month earlier than its family members. Grows to 4' tall and 4' wide.

setaceum 'Rubrum' – Show stopping sight in summer and fall. Foliage is a beautiful bronze-burgundy. Plumes are purple in late summer and fall.

Not winter hardy, but a very useful annual in containers & fall plantings.

setaceum rubrum 'Fireworks' - A refreshing new look to an old time favorite grass! Pennisetum Fireworks is the first variegated purple fountain grass. The mid-vein is the typical burgundy color and is flanked by hot pink margins! Foliage height to 24". Zone 9, **not winter hardy**.

PHALARIS – Ribbon Grass-Not on List

arundinacea 'Picta' - The standard ribbon grass. Green and white variegation that just doesn't quit. Low, running grass is great for those trouble spots where nothing else works. Looks great along a stone wall. Can be aggressive, use caution. Blooms in June. 2-3'. Full sun or part shade. Zone 4.

SCHIZACHYRIUM- Little Bluestem

Full Sun

scoparium 'The Blues' – A hybrid of our native grass with glowing blue foliage that becomes more intense in the fall and is intertwined with deep burgundy red. Grows 3'-5' tall in bloom and 2' wide. Zone 5.

SORGHASTRUM – Blue India Grass-Not on list

Full Sun

nutans 'Sioux Blue' - A beautiful native grass with upright flowers over 2' steely blue foliage. Blooms in August. Orange-gold fall foliage. Zone 4. Grows 4-6' tall.

General Care:

Ornamental Grasses are generally low maintenance, drought tolerant plants once established. However, do not forget to water them through their first summer, especially when planted in containers. They will need some water through long periods of drought.

Most grasses benefit from being cut back to the ground each spring before they start to grow to make them look their best. That's it! Be sure to read about specific varieties and preferred conditions. Some exceptions apply, but most varieties we carry are clump forming, therefore, do not spread. If these clumps get too big for your liking, they can be divided into smaller plants, in early spring for best results.

**For more information visit us at
www.KennedysCountryGardens.com**