

## Switch Grass

### *Panicum Virgatum*



Family:	Grass
Native to:	Missouri
Hardiness Zones:	5 to 9
Bloom Time:	July to February
Height:	3 to 6 feet
Spread:	2 to 3 feet
Bloom:	Pink-tinged

#### ORNAMENTAL GRASS

#### Culture:

*Panicum virgatum*, Switchgrass is a hardy, deep-rooted, perennial rhizomatous grass that begins growth in late spring. It occurs in both wet and dry soils in prairies and open woods, gravel bars and stream banks and along railroad tracks throughout most of the prairies of the Midwestern United States. It features medium green leaves which turn yellow (sometimes with orange tints) in autumn, fading to tan-beige in winter. Foliage clump is topped in mid-summer by finely-textured, pink-tinged, branched flower panicles which hover over the foliage like an airy cloud. Panicles turn beige as the seeds mature in fall with the seed plumes persisting well into winter. It thrives from Canada and as far south as Mexico.

#### Did you know:

Seeds are a food source for birds in winter.

It can be used to control erosion and to produce ethanol from biomass.

Switchgrass can be used as a feedstock for biomass energy production, as ground cover for soil conservation, and to control erosion, for forages and grazing, as game cover, and as feedstock for biodegradable plastics. It can be used by cattle farmers for pasture and hay, and as a substitute for wheat straw in many applications, including livestock bedding, straw bale housing, and as a substrate for growing mushrooms.