

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Panicum virgatum

Switch Grass



Forms large clumps of green, or grey-green foliage, with airy, reddish flower heads in July. In late summer and early fall, the foliage turns yellow and then beige, and the seedheads turn white. Excellent winter and early spring wildlife cover. This was an important grass of the tallgrass prairie. Switch grass is easy to find commercially, and there are many forms selected for foliage color or extra-large flowerheads.

Suggested companions: Indian grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*), a wide variety of prairie flowers, such as tall coreopsis (*Coreopsis tripteris*), prairie coneflower (*Ratibida pinnata*), compass plant (*Silphium laciniatum*), and others.

Photo Credit: Wisconsin State Herbarium,
by Kenneth J. Sytsma

Plant Type: Grass/Grasslike

Size: 4-7' H
W

Water Tolerant: Somewhat

Habitat:

Open field/ Prairie
Wet Meadow
Woodland Margin

Soil: Average Garden Soil
Very Damp/Wet
Sandy/ Gravelly
Clay
Rich Moist

Exposure: sun

Flower Color:

Bloom Time:

Plant in:

Groundcover: No

Other Attributes:

Bird attracting
Wildlife attracting
Fall color
Winter interest
Deer resistant
Butterfly attracting