

We're here to help!

The use of ornamental grasses has increased dramatically over the last few years. Two of the many admirable traits ornamental grasses have to offer include their easy care and the fact that they are virtually pest free.

We are always looking for new varieties of perennial and annual grasses to offer our customers.

Whether you need a small accent grass or a large focal point, we can help.

Call or stop by to see our selection. We are open seven days a week.



Open Year-Round
7 days a week

4955 Austin Bluffs Parkway
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www.phelangardens.com

- *local gardening information
- *upcoming classes & events
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Ornamental Grasses

Care and varieties of ornamental grasses for your landscape



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Grass With Class

Ornamental grasses offer landscape interest from late spring through late winter.

They provide:

- Interesting variegated or colorful leaves that offer good contrast with a variety of plants
- Color and texture in Autumn
- Winter interest especially when paired with evergreens
- Low maintenance
- Most are drought tolerant

Size varies from 8 inches to over 12 feet.

Smaller types fit neatly into containers or the front of the border while larger grasses make excellent screens, windbreaks, or striking accent points in the landscape. It is an added benefit to plant ornamental grasses where the wind can move through them. Movement and sound from grasses will add a new dimension to your garden.

Growing Conditions and Maintenance

Most grasses need full sun, though a few varieties are adaptable to part shade. Soil should be reasonably fertile. Water consistently during the first season to establish healthy root growth. Add 1”–2” of mulch to conserve moisture around the roots. Once established, grasses require much less moisture and minimal feeding, making them ideal for xeriscape plantings. Spacing should be equal to their width at maturity, which is usually reached during their second or third season. Cut the old foliage back in late winter or early spring before new blades emerge.

Ornamental grasses fall into one of two categories—cool season and warm season. Cool season grasses produce new growth about the same time as bulbs and peonies, while warm

season grasses tend to wait until warmer weather begins. Take advantage of these traits to complement spring flowers or hide dying bulb foliage. Ornamental grasses consistently available at Phelan’s include:

Cool Season Types

- **Blue Fescue** *Festuca glauca*
mound forming, blue green in color, early summer flowering, good companion for gray or purple foliage and spring bulbs, 8” – 12” tall and wide
- **Blue Avena/Blue Oat Grass**
Helictotrichon sempervirens fine, spiky arching blue-green blades with oatlike seedheads, 2’– 3’ tall and 2’-3’ wide
- **Feather Reed Grass** *Calamagrostis arundinacea*
Variety: Karl Foerster blooms early, upright narrow habit, decorative panicles, yellow cream in winter. 3’- 4’ tall x 2’ wide
- **Ribbon Grass** *Phalaris arundinacea picta* creeping rhizomes, very aggressive; variegated green/white foliage; may go brown in hot weather; unsuitable for rock gardens, 1’-2’ tall and 3’-4’ wide
- **Switch Grass** *Panicum varieties*
green or blue colored foliage in summer, yellow, orange or maroon colors in the fall, blooms in late summer and fall, 3’-4’ tall and 2’-3’ wide

Warm Season Types

- **Big Bluestem Grass** *Andropogon* Silvery-blue foliage, maroon flower spikes late summer. Striking reddish-copper foliage in fall. 4’-7’ tall x 2-3’wide
- **Little Bluestem Grass** *Schizachyrium*
Narrow, blue-gray blades. Silver seeds heads in fall. Foliage tinges pink/orange in cooler temps. Good for hot, dry areas. 3’ tall x 18”wide

- **Blue Gramma Grass** *Bouteloua*
Variety: ‘Blonde Ambition.’ Narrow, blue green foliage. Buff colored ‘flag-like’ flowers in summer that last into winter. Very unique. 3’tall x 3’wide
- **Dwarf Fountain Grass** *Pennisetum compact*
buff panicles in late summer turning almond color in winter, good border plant; 2’-3’ tall and wide
- **Korean Feather Grass** *Calamagrostis brachytricha* Unlike it’s cousin, Feather Reed Grass, Korean Feather prefers warm temps. Plumes are purplish red at first and lighten to a greenish tan. Wide-bladed grass that is adaptable to part shade. Flowers best in full sun. Upright, arching habit. 4’ tall x 3’ wide
- **Maiden grass** *Miscanthus varieties.*
several different varieties, blooms in late summer and fall, plumes usually hang on into winter
Gracillimus: 5’-6’H x 3’-4’W Fall Color: Yellow
Porcupine: 4’-6’H x 4’-6’W Striped with Cream
Morning Light: 4’H x 3’W White/Green blades
Yaku Jima: 3’-4’H x 3’-4’W Fall Color: Reddish tan
- **Mexican Feather Grass** *Stipa*
Buff seed heads persist on bright green blades all season. Very drought tolerant. Also nice in containers. 18”-24” tall x 18” - 24” wide
- **Northern Sea Oats** *Chasmanthium*
Green bamboo-like foliage takes on a coppery tone in fall. Pendulous ‘oat’ type tan seed heads. Requires a moist spot in part shade. 2’ tall x 2’-3’ wide
- **Hardy Pampas** *Erianthus ravennae* Very tall, blooms late summer, green leaves with silver/ purple panicles, excellent specimen grass, 10’-12’ tall x 5’ wide