ORNAMENTAL GRASSES

Recommended for New Hanover County Landscapes

Underlined plants are extremely drought-tolerant once established *Indicates a plant native to SE USA

Common Name	Botanical Name	Water Use Zone	Recommended Varieties	Height and Spread	Soil	Exposure
Feather Reed Grass	*Calamagrostis brachytricha*	1,2,3		4' x 3'	Moist to Well Drained	Sun to Pt. Shade
Japanese Sedge	*Carex morrowii*	1,2	'Goldband' 'Variegata'	1' x 1' 1' x 1'	Moist to Well Drained	Lt. Shade to Shade
Weeping Japanese Sedge	*Carex oshimensis*	1,2	'Evergold'	1' x 2'	Moist to Well Drained	Lt. Shade to Shade
Chinese Sedge	*Carex phyllocephala*	1,2	'Sparkler'	2' x 2'	Moist to Well Drained	Lt. Shade to Shade
River Oats*	*Chasmanthum latifolium*	1,2,3		4' x 2'	Wet to Well Drained	Sun to Shade
Pampas Grass	*Cortaderia selloeana*	1,2,3		8' x 6'	Moist to Well Drained	Sun
Maiden Grass	*Miscanthus sinensis*	1,2,3	'Adagio' 'Cosmopolitan' 'Morning Light' 'Strictus'	4' x 3' 8' x 4' 6' x 4' 6' x 3'	Moist to Well Drained	Sun to Lt. Shade
Muhly Grass*	*Muhlenbergia capillaris*	2,3		3' x 3'	Well Drained to Xeric	Sun
Panic Grass*	*Panicum virgatum*	1,2,3	'Cloud Nine' 'Northwind' 'Shenandoah'	8' x 5' 5' x 3' 4' x 2'	Moist to Well Drained	Sun to Lt. Shade
Fountain Grass	*Pennisetum alopecuroides*	1,2,3	'Hameln'	3' x 2'	Moist to Well Drained	Sun to Lt. Shade
Tall Fountain Grass	*Pennisetum orientale*	1,2,3	'Tall Tails'	6' x 4'	Moist to Well Drained	Sun
Indian Grass*	*Sorghastrum nutans*	1,2,3		6' x 3'	Moist to Well Drained	Sun

Native Plants*
A plant native to SE USA implies a plant endemic to the Southeastern portion of the United States, from Virginia to Eastern Texas.

Water Use Zones
Water Use Zones indicate the water needs of various plants and correspond to the following NCCE publications:

- *Water Wise Use in Landscaping*
  http://www.bae.ncsu.edu/bae/programs/extension/publicat/wqwm/ag508_1.html
- *How to Plan and Design a Water Wise Use Landscape*
  http://www.bae.ncsu.edu/bae/programs/extension/publicat/wqwm/ag508_2.html

Drought Tolerant Plants
Extremely drought tolerant plants are marked with an underline. When planted in their preferred soil type, these plants are able to withstand extended periods of drought, 4-6 weeks, without supplemental irrigation once established. Most trees and shrubs take two to three seasons to become fully established. Perennials, grasses and groundcovers usually require one to two seasons to become established.

Recommended Varieties
For many plants, recommended varieties are given. These are selections of that plant that either perform better in our area or are more suitable to landscape use than the plain species. Plant varieties, also known as cultivars, are listed enclosed in single quotes.

Exposure
Exposure refers to the amount of sunlight a site receives as follows:

- **Full sun** indicates a site that receives at least 8hrs of direct sun each day.
- **Light Shade** indicates a site that is shaded less than half of the day by a light high shade such as that cast by pine trees.
- **Part Shade** indicates a site that is shaded for half the day by a dense shade such as that cast by buildings or shade trees.
- **Full Shade** indicates a site that is in shade all day.

Soil
Soil refers to soil condition at the site as follows:

- **Wet** indicates a site that stays moist most of the time and receives periodic flooding.
- **Moist** indicates a site that is moist most of the time with brief (less than 12hrs) periods of standing water.
- **Well Drained** indicates a site where water drains from the surface and rarely stands.
- **Xeric** indicates a site that is extremely dry and sandy with very little ability to hold water.

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