



*Panicum virgatum* 'Dallas Blues' PP11202

**BLUE SWITCHGRASS**

Stands out in the landscape with blue, three-quarter-inch-wide leaves and billowy, pink colored seed heads. This native cultivar is an excellent substitution for large exotic ornamental grasses. Drought tolerant and undemanding about soil. Provides food and shelter for birds and wildlife. Cut back in spring before new growth appears. Discovered by Ken and Linda Smith of Smith's Garden in Ohio. Unauthorized propagation prohibited.

*Warm season, blue, 5', 6' with blooms, sun, dry, flowers midsummer, Zones 4-10, Origin: North and Central America*



*Panicum virgatum* 'Dallas Blues' PP11202

*Panicum virgatum* 'Heavy Metal'

**BLUE SWITCHGRASS**

A favorite well-loved for dramatic, metallic-blue foliage and strong upright habit. Pink-tinted, airy blooms in midsummer highlight its blue leaves. A colorful backdrop, stunning in masses, and provides a focal point as a specimen. Good choice for meadows and naturalized areas. Not picky about soil; refrain from over fertilizing. Drought tolerant. One of the oldest and most well-known blue switchgrasses.

*Warm season, blue, 4', 5' with blooms, sun, dry, flowers midsummer, Zones 4-9, Origin: North and Central America*

*Panicum virgatum* 'Cloud Nine'

*Panicum virgatum* 'Cloud Nine'

**TALL SWITCHGRASS**

One of the tallest switchgrasses at 7', 8' with blooms. Stunning blue gray foliage turns a deep gold color in fall. Airy, billowy seed heads appear midsummer and remain attractive into winter. Grows in a loose vase shape; give it space in the landscape. Plant in masses or in backgrounds. Tolerates poor, dry soil, and prefers no fertilizer or special care. A great native grass substitution for *Miscanthus*.

*Warm season, blue gray, 7', 8' with blooms, sun, dry, flowers midsummer, Zones 4-9, Origin: North and Central America*

*Panicum virgatum* 'Heavy Metal'



# SWITCHGRASS QUICK GUIDE

The *Panicum* species and cultivars listed below are ornamental, North American native grasses. They're all good-looking, drought-tolerant, and low-maintenance. Which Switchgrass is right for you? Use this guide to help decide.

Ht. (ft.) w/ bloom	Panicum species & cultivars	Habit	Foliage	Distinctive features
3.5	<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	Upright	Green	Clouds of airy seed heads
3.5	Squaw	Upright	Green	Showy, abundant blooms; thicker stems & wider leaves; sturdy look
4	Prairie Sky	Upright loose	Baby blue	Super-blue leaf color; needs poor soil
4	Rotstrahlbusch	Upright	Green, then red	Burgundy tipped leaves and seed heads in mid-late summer
4	Ruby Ribbons™	Upright	Blue green; wine red midsummer	Deep red fall color; lighter, more open look
4	Shenandoah	Upright	Green, then red	Starts green and colors up early summer; becomes dazzling red in fall
5	Heavy Metal	Upright	Metallic blue	Dramatic color and shape; midsummer blooms
5	<i>P. amarum</i> 'Dewey Blue'	Loose vase	Intense blue gray	Can manage in dry, sterile, sandy sites; spreads by rhizomes
5.5	Northwind	Tight upright	Blue green	Stunning vertical accent; dependably upright
6	Dallas Blues	Upright vase	Bright blue	Wide blue leaves; pink-colored seed heads
8	Cloud Nine	Loose vase	Blue gray	Tall; deep gold color in fall; good substitute for large, exotic grasses
8	Thundercloud	Upright vase	Blue-green	Resists flopping under wind and rain; impressive panicles