

gardening with...

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**Ornamental
Grasses**

Ornamental Grasses



Festuca glauca

NB: Availability of some varieties may be limited, due to scarcity of supply. If unavailable from our normal suppliers, we shall refer customers to an alternative source.

Further reading

**The Plantfinders Guide to
Ornamental Grasses**
by Roger Grounds
ISBN 0-7153-0638-3

Haskins Ferndown

Longham, Ferndown
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Haskins West End

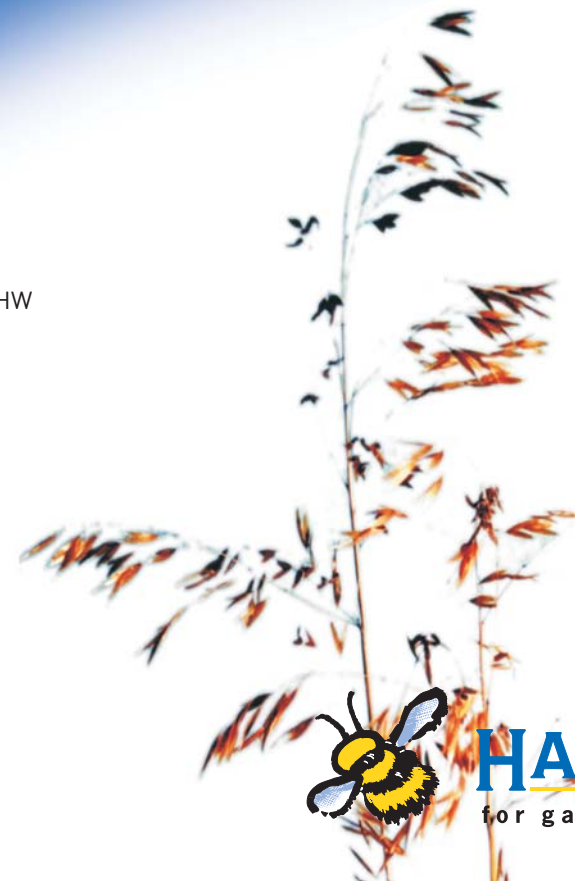
Mansbridge Road, Gaters Hill
West End, Southampton SO18 3HW
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Haskins Roundstone

Roundstone Bypass, Angmering
West Sussex BN16 4BD
Tel: 01903 777666

Haskins Snowhill

Snowhill Lane, Copthorne
West Sussex RH10 3EY
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Stipa gigantea
flower heads.



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gardening with... Ornamental Grasses

Ornamental grasses

If you were under the misconception that "Grass" was simply something you mowed once a week and sat on in the summer, prepare to be enlightened. The trends in gardening are changing towards more "natural", informal planting and carried high on the wave of change are the decorative ornamental grasses. Left untrimmed, grasses have a unique knack of blending seamlessly into the most naturalistic, wild planting or sit comfortably when surrounded by cobbles and galvanised steel; in fact they are essential plants for any garden.



Grasses are easy to grow, hardy and tolerant of neglect, with varieties to suit most soil types and positions. They make excellent specimen plants for containers (planted into a mix of Multi-Purpose Compost and John Innes no.3), or friendly groups amongst perennials.

Care and maintenance

Ornamental grasses demand minimal care, excepting the removal of dead stems from deciduous varieties in spring. Gently run your fingers through the foliage of evergreen clumps to dislodge leaf litter and old foliage, immediately improving the plants appearance. Give growth a boost with Miracle-Gro Controlled Release Plant Food at the same time, following manufacturers' instructions.

NOTE: Some varieties (such as *Cortaderia*, the familiar "Pampas Grass"), have very sharp edges to their leaves. Care should be taken when handling, with the wise precaution of always wearing gloves.

Recommended varieties

Latin Name:	Foliage Colour:	Shape:	Height x Spread:	Position:	Deciduous / Evergreen:
<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> 'Aureovariegatus'	Gold and green striped.	Upright	30cm x ind. (12" x ind.)	Sun or semi-shade	D
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius bulbosum</i> 'Variegatum'	White and grey.	Tufted	30 x 30cm (12" x 12")	Sun or semi-shade	D
<i>Arundo donax</i>	Blue-green.	Upright	4.5m x ind. (15' x ind.)	Sun	D
<i>Calamagrostis x acutifolia</i> 'Overdam'	White and green flushed pink.	Fountain	1m x 1m (3' x 3')	Sun or semi-shade	D
<i>Carex buchananii</i>	Pinkish-brown.	Upright	60 x 60cm (2' x 2')	Sun	E
<i>C. caryophylla</i> 'The Beatles'	Dark green.	Mounded	30 x 90cm (12" x 3')	Sun or semi-shade	E
<i>C. comans</i>	Bronze.	Arching	60 x 120cm (2' x 4')	Sun or semi-shade	E
<i>C. comans</i> 'Frosted Curly'	Pale silvery green.	Weeping	45cm x 1m (18" x 3')	Sun or semi-shade	E
<i>C. comans</i> 'Small Red'	Reddish-brown.	Arching	60 x 45cm (12" x 18")	Sun or semi-shade	E
<i>C. morrowii</i> 'Evergold'	Green striped yellow.	Mounded	45 x 60cm (18" x 24")	Sun or semi-shade	E
<i>C. morrowii</i> 'Variegatus'	Green striped cream.	Arching	60 x 75cm (2' x 30")	Sun or semi-shade	E
<i>C. oshimensis</i> 'Variegata'	Green striped cream.	Mounded	25 x 45cm (10" x 18")	Sun or semi-shade	E
<i>C. pendula</i> 'Moonraker'	Golden green.	Arching	75cm x 1m (30" x 3')	Sun or semi-shade	E
<i>C. petriei</i>	Milk Chocolate brown.	Weeping	30 x 30cm (1' x 1')	Sun	E
<i>C. testacea</i>	Olive turning orange.	Arching	45 x 45cm (18" x 18")	Sun or semi-shade	E
<i>Chinochloa rubra</i>	Orange-brown.	Arching	1m x 1m (3' x 3')	Sun	E
<i>Cortaderia selloana</i>	Mid green.	Arching	3m x 2.4m (10' x 8')	Sun or semi-shade	E
<i>C. s.</i> 'Gold Band'	Green striped yellow.	Arching	3m x 2.4m (10' x 8')	Sun or semi-shade	E
<i>C. s.</i> 'Pumila'	Mid green.	Arching	1.5m x 1.5m (5' x 5')	Sun or semi-shade	E
<i>C. s.</i> 'Sunningdale Silver'	Green striped white.	Arching	2.4m x 2.4m (8' x 8')	Sun or semi-shade	E
<i>Deschampsia caespitosa</i> 'Northern Lights'	Red, pink, green and cream.	Arching	90 x 90cm (3' x 3')	Sun	D
<i>D. flexuosa</i> 'Tetra Gold'	Acid yellow.	Tufted	15 x 15cm (6" x 6")	Sun or semi-shade	D
<i>Elymus hispidus</i>	Steely-blue.	Loosely tufted	60 x 60cm (2' x 2')	Sun	D
<i>Festuca glauca</i>	Blueish-green.	Tufted	30 x 60cm (1' x 2')	Sun	E
<i>F. g.</i> 'Elijah Blue'	Steely-blue.	Tufted	23 x 45cm (9" x 18")	Sun	E
<i>F. g.</i> 'Golden Toupee'	Yellowish blue.	Tufted	23 x 23cm (9" x 9")	Sun	E
<i>Glyceria maxima variegata</i>	Green and cream flushed pink.	Arching	1.8m x ind. (6' x ind.)	Sun	D
<i>Hakonechloa macra</i> 'Aureola'	Green striped golden yellow.	Arching	23 x 90cm (9" x 3')	Sun or semi-shade	D
<i>Helictotrichon pratense</i>	Blueish-green.	Tufted	30 x 60cm (1' x 2')	Sun	E
<i>H. sempervirens</i>	Grey-blue.	Arching	1m x 1m (3' x 3')	Sun	E
<i>Holcus mollis</i> 'Albovariegatus'	Green striped white.	Tufted	15cm x ind. (6" x ind.)	Semi-shade	D
<i>Imperata cylindrica</i> 'Rubra'	Green tipped red.	Upright	45cm x ind. (18" x ind.)	Sun	D
<i>Juncus effusus</i> 'Spiralis'	Dark green, twisted foliage.	Tufted	45 x 60cm (18" x 24")	Sun or semi-shade	E
<i>Koeleria glauca</i>	Blue-green.	Tufted	23 x 45cm (9" x 18")	Sun	D
<i>Leymus arenarius</i>	Steely-blue.	Loosely tufted	1m x ind. (3' x ind.)	Sun	D
<i>Milium effusum</i> 'Aureum'	Bright yellow.	Tufted	30 x 30cm (12" x 12")	Shade or semi-shade	D
<i>Miscanthus sinensis</i>	Mid green.	Fountain	1.8 x 1.8m (6' x 6')	Sun or semi-shade	D
<i>M. s.</i> 'Morning Light'	Green striped cream.	Fountain	1.5 x 1.4m (5' x 5')	Sun or semi-shade	D
<i>M. s.</i> 'Zebra'	Green striped yellow.	Fountain	2.4 x 1.2m (8' x 4')	Sun or semi-shade	D
<i>M. tinctoria</i> 'Nanus Variegatus'	Green striped cream.	Fountain	75cm x ind. (30" x ind.)	Sun or semi-shade	D
<i>Molina caerulea</i> 'Variegata'	Green, cream flushed pink.	Upright	1m x 60cm (3' x 2')	Sun or semi-shade	D
<i>Panicum virgatum</i> 'Cloud Nine'	Steely-blue.	Loosely tufted	1.8 x 1.5m (6' x 5')	Sun	D
<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i> 'Picta'	Green and white flushed pink.	Mounded	1m x ind. (3' x ind.)	Sun or semi-shade	D
<i>Poa colensoi</i>	Grey-blue.	Tufted	30 x 60cm (1' x 2')	Sun or semi-shade	E
<i>Sesleria caerulea</i>	Blueish-green.	Tufted	15 x 30cm (6" x 12")	Sun	E
<i>Spartina pectinata</i> 'Aureomarginata'	Green banded gold.	Arching	1.5m x ind. (5' x ind.)	Sun or semi-shade	D
<i>Uncinia rubra</i>	Mahogany-red.	Arching	30 x 90cm (12" x 3')	Sun	E

KEY: ind = Indefinite spread.

