

Switchgrass

Panicum virgatum

QUICK FACTS

USDA ZONES

4–9

SUNLIGHT

Full Sun

BLOOM

Summer

HEIGHT

3–6 ft

DEER

Resistant

ORIGIN

North American native

AT A GLANCE

Switchgrass is one of the easiest native ornamental grasses to grow in the eastern United States. Plant it in full sun with good drainage and leave it alone. Cut it to 4–6 inches above ground in late February or early March before new growth emerges. That's the entire care program for an established plant. The only decision that matters is cultivar selection -- they vary significantly in height, color, and architectural form.

PLANTING CHECKLIST

- Match site to sun requirements above before buying
- Test soil drainage — dig a 12" hole, fill with water, time it (should drain in 1–2 hrs)
- Dig hole 2x wider than rootball, same depth
- Backfill with native soil — do NOT amend the planting hole
- Water deeply at planting and weekly for first 3 weeks
- Mulch 2" deep, keep mulch 2" away from trunk/stems

FULL GUIDE WITH SOURCES

<https://outdoorplantcare.com/plants/switchgrass-care/>