

STERILE AND INFERTILE GRASSES



The Problem

It should be obvious, but sometimes important subjects just need a little nudge. Take sterile grasses for instance.

Chicago Botanic Gardens is removing or has removed all miscanthus because of their self-seeding tendencies, excepting *Miscanthus s. Silberpfeil*, *M.s. Hinjo* and *Miscanthus x giganteus*.

And after seeing what *Miscanthus sacchariflorus* has done to some parts of the state of Wisconsin, you would think any landscape professional, or garden designer would be all over sterile grasses!



The Problem

It seems sterile grasses have been a little slow to catch on around here.

So, we are doing our part to encourage and educate horticulturalists everywhere about their advantages.

Granted, Southeast Wisconsin doesn't seem to have a much of an issue as other parts of the state or even Northern Illinois.

However, that doesn't mean this subject, and these valuable genera should be ignored.



The Problem

Ornamental grasses are beautiful and graceful. Many are drought tolerant and thrive in tough soil conditions and native habitats. It seems there is an ornamental grass for just about any need.

And, their beautiful inflorescence, or flower, comes into bloom just as everything else is slowing down for the season.

However, for many grasses their viable seed is NOT desirable. Infertile grasses are the perfect option!





The Positives

The advantage of infertile grasses is this; since the plants aren't putting any energy into producing seeds, they:

- are more vigorous
- flower earlier
- produce flowers for a longer time

And Garden Centers and Landscape Professionals offering sterile grasses are assuring their customers that the variety they plant will remain true to name and will be easier to keep in check.

Bandwidth Porcupine Grass

MISCANTHUS SINENSIS BANDWIDTH

PP29460

Full Sun Grass

Bandwidth is short in stature and big on performance! This beautiful, tough and infertile ornamental grass is a real eye-catcher with its bright green foliage and golden horizontal banding.

We highly recommend it as a substitute for Miscanthus s. Little Zebra.



High Frequency Silver Grass

MISCANTHUS SINENSIS HIGH FREQUENCY

PP34712

Full Sun Grass

A tall, columnar Japanese Silver Grass with showy banded variegated foliage that is perfect in a standout location as an upright focal point. An impressive display of feather-like seed heads appears in the fall for added interest. It is rust resistant and infertile for healthy, non-invasive plants in the landscape.

We highly recommend it as a substitute for Miscanthus s. Zebrinus (Zebra Grass).



My Fair Maiden™ Grass

MISCANTHUS SINENSIS
MY FAIR MAIDEN™

PP26892

Full Sun Grass

My Fair Maiden™ is an outstanding Miscanthus sinensis distinguished by its attractive vase-shaped form and showy inflorescences, which glitter and shine in the sun. It was created to have extremely low seed set and viability. This virtual sterility is especially important in today's market.

We highly recommend it as a substitute for Miscanthus s. Silver Feather.



Scout™ Maiden Grass

MISCANTHUS SINENSIS SCOUT™

PP30402

• *Full Sun Grass*

Scout™ is a newer, infertile Miscanthus sinensis from the University of Georgia. It has mature seed heads of showy white and slender, rich green foliage with a white mid-rib.

We highly recommend it as a substitute for Miscanthus s. Gracillimus or Graziella.



Cabaret Silver Grass

MISCANTHUS *SINENSIS*
CONDENSATUS CABARET

Full Sun Grass

This handsome grass makes a statement with its tall stature, variegated foliage and densely tufted, tassel-like plumes in late summer. Ribbon-like foliage dons creamy-white centers flanked by dark green margins. It creates a powerful focal point. Infertile for healthy, non-invasive plants in the landscape.

We highly recommend it as a substitute for *Miscanthus s. Variegatus*.



Giant Miscanthus

MISCANTHUS X GIGANTEUS

Full Sun Grass

Giant Miscanthus grows in a 10-foot, arching shape with deep green, wide leaves. In September, fluffy, fan-like plumes emerge above the foliage bringing the height to 12 feet. Foliage turns a deep burnt orange and fades to tan as winter approaches offering a giant expanse of winter interest in the landscape. This *Miscanthus* produces sterile seed.

We have no recommended substitute for this beauty. It stands out on its own!



Cayenne Fountain Grass

PENNISETUM ALOPECUROIDES *CAYENNE*

PP31097

Full Sun Grass

One of the amazing fountain grass introductions from University of Georgia, and one of the longest and latest flowering, 'Cayenne' Hardy Fountain Grass features a 3'-4' tall x 5'-6' wide gracefully clumping mound of fine-textured green leaves from which rise showy dark brown bottlebrush-like flower plumes beginning in mid summer and persisting through November. The flowers are sterile - no worry about invasiveness. In fall the leaves turn a very colorful shade of golden yellow. A versatile grass for sunny and dry landscapes or perennial gardens.

We highly recommend it as a substitute for Pennisetum alopecuroides Red Head.



Jambalaya™ Fountain Grass

PENNISETUM ALOPECUROIDES
JAMBALAYA™

PP31176

Full Sun Grass

Jambalaya™ forms tidy, uniform mounds with slender erect foliage and silvery-pink plumes. A long-flowering infertile variety that won't self-sow. Prefers Sun to Part Shade, reaches a height of 38" and is hardy in zones 5 to 9.

We highly recommend it as a substitute for Pennisetum alop. Cassian.



Squaw Switch Grass

PANICUM VIRGATUM **SQUAW**

Full Sun Grass

Growing to only 44" in height, 'Squaw' is the perfect Switch Grass selection for smaller garden spaces where its larger growing cousins won't fit. In mid summer airy, pink flowers in cloud-like panicles rise above the erect clump of green foliage that turns to deep burgundy with the arrival of cooler temperatures in fall. This native beauty provides both wonderful texture and color and is sure to stand out as a majestic presence in the landscape. AND Plant Delights website suggests that it is an infertile variety.

We highly recommend it as a substitute for Panicum v. Shenandoah.





In Conclusion

We ask you to please consider using infertile Miscanthus and Pennisetum varieties when planning your next project!

And don't be surprised if we ask if you would like to sub an infertile variety when placing orders this coming season.

Thank you!

Questions? Comments?
Please contact us!
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