

# Native Switchgrass

*Panicum virgatum*



Switchgrass is a major prairie grass that is a handsome garden plant with dazzling fall color. It is easy to grow in varied conditions: moist, dry, sun, hot, and it tolerates clay, infertile and sandy soils. *Panicum virgatum* has an upright growth habit reaching three feet with a cloud of airy seed heads. Switchgrass looks spectacular covering large areas of the landscape, eliminating the need for mowing and fertilizing. Switchgrass provides food and shelter to birds and wildlife; and, it thrives almost maintenance free. It is a natural for meadows, abandoned areas, borders and naturalized landscapes. This quick-growing perennial grass is studied as a biofuel alternative because it can be harvested and processed to produce bio-fuel.