

SWITCHGRASS COMPARISON CHART

Panicum virgatum and its cultivars listed below are all good looking, drought tolerant, and low maintenance. With those credentials, it's no wonder Switchgrass is one of our most beloved North American natives. Which Switchgrass is right for you? Use this comparison chart—ordered by height and listing key features—to help decide.

<i>Panicum virgatum</i> & cultivars	Height w/bloom	Habit	Foliage color	Distinctive features
Cape Breeze	2'-3'	Upright arching	Green	Short and compact; long-lasting green foliage; high salt tolerance
<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	3.5'	Upright	Green	Clouds of airy seed heads
Purple Tears	4'	Upright	Green	Soft gray, flowering spikes with purple seed heads; neat habit
Rotstrahlbusch	4'	Upright	Green, then red	Burgundy tipped leaves and seed heads in mid-late summer
Ruby Ribbons® ('RR1')	4'	Upright	Blue green; wine red midsummer	Deep red fall color; lighter, more open look
Shenandoah	4'	Upright	Green, then red	Starts green and colors up early summer; dazzling red in fall
Summer Sunrise	4.5'	Upright	Green	Narrow, upright habit; heavy bloom set with soft pink seed heads
Heavy Metal	5'	Upright	Metallic blue	Dramatic color and shape; midsummer blooms
Northwind	5.5'	Tight upright	Blue green	Stunning vertical accent; dependably upright
Dallas Blues	6'	Upright vase	Bright blue	Wide blue leaves; pink-colored seed heads
Cloud Nine	8'	Loose vase	Blue gray	Tall; deep gold color in fall; good sub for large, introduced grasses
Thundercloud	8'	Upright vase	Blue-green	Resists flopping under wind and rain; impressive panicles

