



THE EXTENSION LINE

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Mary Hockenberry Meyer has been conducting extensive evaluations and research on many ornamental grasses at the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. Following is a brief summary of ornamental grasses which have performed well in part or all of Minnesota.

Perennials:

- Calamagrostis acutiflora* 'Stricta' Feather Reed Grass
- Deschampsia caespitosa* Tufted Hair Grass
- Festuca cinerea* 'Sea Urchin' or 'Soiling' Blue Fescue
- Helictotrichon sempervirens* Blue Oat Grass
- Miscanthus sinensis* 'Purpurescens' Red Miscanthus
or Flame Grass
- Miscanthus sinensis* 'Silver Feather' Silver Feather
Miscanthus
- Molinea caerulea arundinacea* 'Windspell' Moor Grass
- Panicum virgatum* 'Rubrum' or 'Strictum' Switch Grass
- Sesleria autumnalis* or *S. caerulea* Sesleria
- Spodiopogon sibericus* Spodiopogon

Additional for Southern Minnesota:

- Erianthus ravennae* Plume Grass
- Pennisetum alopecuroides* Fountain Grass

Two Excellent Choices for Annual Bedding Plants:

- Pennisetum setaceum* Crimson Fountain Grass
- Pennisetum villosum* Feather Top

Tips to Use Ornamental Grasses:

- Plant grasses in PUBLIC AREAS to show their mature appearance; in front of your business, etc. with other shrubs and/or bedding plants.
- Think of grasses just as you would other perennials (e.g. peonies, daylilies, iris, etc.) as far as use and care.

Toxic Chemical Task Force Meets in St. Paul

As part of a broadening interest nationally into the use of pesticides and fertilizers, the City of St. Paul organized a citizen's task force last November with the intent of developing ordinances to protect citizens from overuse and abuse of these substances.

Though the issue arose over possible surface water and groundwater contamination by these chemicals, the investigation soon broadened to include possible hazardous exposure to homeowners and applicators throughout the city.

The emphasis of the investigation centered on the use of "organic," natural approaches to plant management versus

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