

Ornamental Grasses

Grown to their full height, with or without seed heads present, grasses can be astonishingly beautiful plants. Ornamental grasses were first popularized as garden plants in Germany in the 1930s by nurseryman [Karl Foerster](#). In the 1970s, the influential landscape architects [Wolfgang Oehme and James Van Sweden](#) sparked a renewed interest in ornamental grasses, which was reinforced by new gardening trends such as xeriscaping, the use of native plants, and rain gardens. Over the years, gardeners and nurserymen have selected the most dramatic (and least invasive) varieties of grasses for ornamental display, and many are now available for use in American gardens.



Pennisetum setaceum 'Rubrum.' Source:

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/Portals/0/PlantFinder/low/C257-0628050cs.jpg>

For more information:

[US National Arboretum: Delightful Ornamental Grasses](#)

[University of Illinois Extension: Ornamental Grasses](#)

[Missouri Botanical Garden – Factsheet: Ornamental Grasses](#)

[University of Tennessee Extension – Factsheet: Ornamental Grasses in the Landscape](#)