



Native Plant of the Year: **Switchgrass** *Panicum virgatum*



Photos courtesy of Brian Parsons (top and bottom left) and Ann McCulloh (bottom right)

Unique Characteristics

Switchgrass is often used in rain gardens and provides excellent nesting and cover for birds. It can also be used for erosion control and bank stabilization.

This plant is recommended for landscapes prone to deer damage.

Plant type: ornamental grass

Native range: central America to southern Canada

Sun: full sun to part shade

Water: medium to wet

Soil: dry to moist

pH: 4.5 to 7.5

Height: 3 to 6 feet

Wildlife: excellent nesting and cover for birds

Hardiness zones: 5 to 9

Bloom time: July to February

Bloom color: pink

Uses: rain gardens; erosion control; cut and dried flower arrangements; used as an alternative to *Miscanthus* spp.

