NEBRASKA
STATEWIDE
Arboretum

# Why use ornamental grasses?

- Ability to thrive despite Great Plains weather extremes and soil types
- Ornamental grasses requires little if any supplemental irrigation once established
- Ornamental grasses resist insect pests and disease.
- Provide critical habitat for local wildlife
- Deer, bunnies and grasshoppers don’t eat them

# Why use ornamental grasses?

- Sound & Movement
- Light & Translucency
- The Quality of Line
- Form, Texture & Scale
- Foliage & Flower Color

- Form, Texture & Scale

- Sound & Movement

# Light & Translucency

Winter Beauty

# The Quality of Line

# Designing With Ornamental Grasses

- Variety of sizes, textures and colors
- Useful in fresh or dried arrangements
- Evokes a sense of place
- Ideal in formal or naturalistic designs
- Grasses are appropriate for most any container
- Seasonal arrangements for fall and winter

- Ornamental grasses have a long vase life

Woody florals & ornamental grasses—together at last

BOTA

# Why Ornamental Grasses?

- Dried grasses are ideal in creating vertical line in an arrangement
- Fine-textured grasses are useful as a filler or to contrast with rough-textured seed heads in creating fall arrangements
- Grasses can be cut with very long stems for outdoor containers
- Or shorter stems cut for swags, wreaths, natural holiday decorations, or pressed arrangements.

SONY

# Harvesting Ornamental Grasses

- Harvest grasses when the seed heads are mature and the stems are still green
- Group the stems into bundles and secure with a large rubber band
- Hang the bundles in a warm, airy location to dry for at least 3 weeks
- After drying bundles can be stored in upright containers until ready to use
- Dried grasses will last for years without fading and if harvest is timely they won't shatter

# Late Spring—June into July

# Canada Wildrye

*Elymus canadensis*

# Silky Wildrye

*Elymus villosus*

*'Karl Foerster'*
Feather Reed Grass

# Canary Reed Grass

Smooth Brome Grass

Smooth Brome
&
Sour Dock

Blue Grama Grass,
*Bouteloua gracilis*,

# Summer—July into August

Northern Sea Oats, Chasmanthium latifolium

# Purple Top Grass, Tridens flavus

Sand Lovegrass, *Eragrostis trichoides*

Indiangrass, *Sorghastrum nutans*

- Big Bluestem, *Andropogon gerardii*

Switchgrass, *Panicum virgatum*

‘Dallas Blues’ Switchgrass, *Panicum virgatum*

# Late Summer into Fall

Prairie Cordgrass, Spartina pectinata

*Calamagrostis brachytricha*,
Korean Reed Grass

Ravenna Grass, *Saccharum ravennae*

Little bluestem, Schizachyrium scoparium

Sour Dock

# Agastache or Hyssop

# Anise hyssop, *Agastache foeniculum*

# Yellow Giant Hyssop

*Agastache nepetoides*

# Siberian iris seed pods

Pale Purple Coneflower
*Echinacea pallida*

# Dwarf Blue Indigo, *Baptisia minor*

“Used by small boys as a rattle when they play at having a dance.”

# Showy Black-Eyed Susan

*Rudbeckia fulgida var speciosa*

Brown-eyed Susan, *Rudbeckia triloba*

Canada Milkvetch,
*Astragalus canadensis*

Prairie Bushclover,
*Lespedeza capitata*

Shell-leaf Penstemon,
*Penstemon grandiflorus*

'Husker Red' Penstemon

Shell-leaf Penstemon

‘Husker Red’ Penstemon

# Common Milkweed, *Asclepias syriaca*

Hibiscus seed heads

Staghorn Sumac

# Virginia mountain mint

# Beebalm

# Dried Plants for Filler

# White Sage—Artemisia ludoviciana

Dusty Miller

Garden Sage

# Sea lavender, Limonium carolinanum

garden-en.com

# Sweet Annie—Artemesia annua

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