

# Ornamental Grasses for the Golf Course



Sure, when you think of golf courses, you think of turfgrass. But ornamental grasses play an important role on golf courses, too - they add ecological value.

Ornamental grasses are great performers for golf courses. They do not need a lot of input to look good. They adapt to poor soils and do not require supplemental irrigation and fertilization once established. Their branching, fibrous root systems slow runoff, which helps reduce erosion, improves water quality, and increases infiltration. They tolerate drought and some can withstand soggy conditions. Another bonus - they only need cutting back once a year - no mowing!

These grasses can serve as host plants for pollinators and provide food, shelter, and nesting materials for birds and small mammals. Deer, on the other hand, tend to leave them alone.

And beautiful? They've got that covered, too. The rough needs to look good, and with their seasonality, unique forms and textures, and design versatility, grasses bring outstanding beauty to the course. Use them as screening between areas, backdrops for broad vistas, accents in entrance plantings and parking lots, and showy displays in the fall.

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When it comes to grasses for golf courses, these options are a hole-in-one!

- *Andropogon virginicus*
- *Calamagrostis brachytricha*
- *Calamagrostis x acutiflora* 'Karl Foerster'
- *Chasmanthium latifolium*
- *Juncus inflexus* Blue Arrows
- *Muhlenbergia capillaris*
- *Muhlenbergia capillaris* 'White Cloud'
- *Muhlenbergia lindheimeri*
- *Muhlenbergia reverchonii*
- *Nassella tenuissima*
- *Panicum virgatum*
- *Panicum virgatum* 'Northwind'
- *Panicum virgatum* 'Shenandoah'
- *Schizachyrium scoparium* 'Standing Ovation' PP25202
- *Schizachyrium scoparium* 'The Blues'
- *Sporobolus heterolepis*
- *Spartina bakeri*
- *Sporobolus wrightii*