

Purple Lovegrass

Eragrostis spectabilis

Lovegrass grows wild in flatwoods, sandhills and prairies. As a native species it is an excellent choice for a wildlife-friendly landscape but it need not be confined to wild spaces. It makes an excellent border and accent plant and is very attractive in massed plantings. As is true of most warm season grasses, lovegrass is dormant in the winter. Lovegrass grows quickly and prefers hot and dry site conditions. It performs best in full sun, but can tolerate partial shade as well.

Type: perennial in zone 8 and higher

USDA hardiness zones: 8 through 11

Uses: border; mass planting; naturalizing; accent; wildlife planting; erosion control

Origin: native to Florida

Height: 1 to 3 feet **Spread:** 1 to 3 feet

Plant spacing: 24 to 36 inches

Light requirement: full sun to part shade

Soil tolerances: tolerates a range of soil conditions but does best in sandy soils

Drought tolerance: moderate

Soil salt tolerances: low

Plant spacing: 24 to 36 inches

Invasive potential: low

Pest resistance: susceptible to caterpillars

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Photo: Lisa Sanderson, UF/IFAS