

Red Switchgrass

Panicum virgatum 'Shenandoah'

The profuse, fine-textured panicles of Red Switchgrass create visual interest, especially in the fall garden. 'Shenandoah' has upright foliage that is red-tinted during the growing season but puts on its best dazzling red-leaved show in the fall. After the flowers go to seed leave them on the plant to provide a winter food source for birds and small mammals. Plant in full sun in moist clay or sandy soils. Partial shade is acceptable but it will not grow as tightly and may flop over. This grass can flop if over-fertilized or overwatered.

Type: perennial ornamental grass

USDA hardiness zones: 4 through 10

Uses: border; mass planting; specimen; accent

Origin: native to the southern United States

Height: 3 to 4 feet **Spread:** 3 feet

Plant spacing: 2 to 4 feet

Light requirement: full sun to part shade

Soil tolerances: acidic; slightly alkaline; clay; sand; loam

Drought tolerance: moderate

Soil salt tolerances: unknown

Invasive potential: low

Pest resistance: no pests or diseases are of major concern

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Photo: NC State University / JC Raulston Arboretum