

Zebra Grass

Miscanthus sinensis 'Zebrinus'

The zebra grass cultivar of *Miscanthus sinensis* has distinctive yellow stripes across the foliage displaying a variegated effect. Slender leaves originate in a clump spreading out and up like a fountain. The leaves droop and weep toward the ground as they do on many of the other *Miscanthus* cultivars. The slightest breeze moves the foliage allowing the landscape to come alive. This shrub-like grass turns to a rich gold in the fall and the color lasts through the winter. The 5 to 7 foot tall clumps of zebra grass bear pink flowers in a one-sided inflorescence in late summer and fall that can be used for drying or as a dye plant. Their pinkish or silvery 8 to 10 inch long plumes persist into the winter. *Miscanthus sinensis* is a warm season grass and transplants best in the spring. Provide good drainage at the planting site.

Type: herbaceous ornamental grass

USDA hardiness zones: 5 through 9

Uses: mass planting; border; container or above-ground planter; screen; accent

Origin: not native to North America

Height: 6 to 7 feet **Spread:** 5 to 10 feet

Plant spacing: 3 to 5 feet

Light requirement: full sun

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

Drought tolerance: moderate

Soil salt tolerances: poor

Invasive potential: aggressive, spreading plant

Pest resistance: no serious pests are normally seen on the plant

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Photo: NCSU Extension