

Sugarcane

Saccharum spp

You can add an attractive edible to your landscape by planting sugarcane. This perennial grass from the genus *Saccharum* ranges in color from green to red to purple. Sugar-cane stalks produce a very sweet juice. There are different varieties for various intended uses; some are bred for chewing, while others are grown for crystalizing, or for making syrup. Sugarcane is grown only from stalk cuttings, called “seed-cane,” because it will not breed true from seeds. Seed-cane should be planted from mid-August through November but growth won’t occur until spring. Sugarcane works well as an intercrop with vegetables and/or nitrogen-fixing legumes. Sugarcane can also serve as a natural windbreak in the garden but take care where planting because the sharp-edged leaves can hurt people.

Type: perennial ornamental grass

USDA hardiness zones: 6b - 10b

Uses: sugar; butterfly garden; pollinator garden

Origin: not native to North America

Height: 3 to 12 feet **Spread:** 3 to 10 feet

Plant spacing: See “MORE INFORMATION” link

Light requirement: full sun to part shade

Soil tolerances: sand; clay; loam; well drained

Drought tolerance: good

Soil salt tolerances: moderate

Invasive potential: not invasive

Pest resistance: several chewing pests and borers
can be issues on susceptible varieties

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INFORMATION**



Photo: UF/IFAS