

## Welcome to Grassland Gardens!!

Website: [www.grasslandgardens.com](http://www.grasslandgardens.com)

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I host this field day in the Fall because it gives you a better idea of how these grasses look at maturity vs. in a pot in the spring. Orders are taken in the fall and grasses are dug & divided or starts are grown out in the spring. Grasses will be in 1 & 2 gal. containers depending on species (the order form will tell you which size). Two gallon containers come from the field. One gallon container grown grasses are from new starts. I do this for a number of reasons. Some grasses are patented and can not be commercially propagated. Others are slow to break dormancy and would not be available at the pick up date. Others have passed the field test, but I don't have a large enough field grown quantity yet. These pot sizes are displayed. All pots will come with a tag and planting information in the spring.

Grasses are usually available the last weekend of April or the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend in May depending on what kind of spring we have. I'll send a post card with the date of the pickup weekend. If it turns out that doesn't work for you, just give me a call and we can work something out.

Contained on your clipboard are three items: 1) this explanation sheet, 2) grass list – grasses are listed in alphabetical order, and 3) order form. The grass list will give you further information about each grass. You are welcome to take this with you through the fields and write notes and comments on your grass list or explanation sheet, which is yours to keep.

Here is some basic information about the grasses. All my grasses are perennial (except for one) and bunch forming. This means they will come back each year and they will grow by increasing their girth, but never by underground rhizomes (such as ribbon grass), which can become invasive. The only grasses I have

that have shown any tendency to reseed are native grasses ('Indian steel' Indian grass, 'Sioux Blue' Indian grass, 'The Blues' little bluestem, 'Prairie Sky' switch grass, and Cloud Nine switch grass). As with any perennial, you can scratch out any unwanted starts in the spring. 'Rubrum' is a beautiful purple colored grass and is an **Annual**. I carry these each spring because of their lovely purple color. They are great in pots or as a focal point in your landscape.

All my grasses are drought tolerant. The cultivars related to our native grasses such as switch, little bluestem, Indian, and big bluestem are the most drought tolerant. Plants need to be watered the first year as necessary just as in establishing any new planting. All the grasses can take full sun and generally need half day sun. A few can take some shade. See your grass list. General care is minimal. The old foliage should be cut back either late in the fall after a freeze or anytime after that until you see the new spring green foliage. You can even burn off the old foliage (Do this only if planting is a safe distance from any hazards such as a house, garage, shed, or combustible materials etc.). Experience has shown most people leave the foliage at least till late winter as this adds structure and interest to their winter yards and gardens.

Please feel free to walk up and down the rows as that is the only way to see all the varieties. Yellow and orange signs are perennials. Blue signs are annuals. New this year is my large grass display garden by the pergola. In a year or so, one will be able to easily compare grasses. For now, you'll be able to get an idea on some of the varieties.

If you would like to make a selection, mark the quantity of each type on the order sheet. Take it over to the tent and it will be figured up for you. 1/3 is due at the time of your order and the remaining balance is due in the spring. If any variety is unavailable in spring, your 1/3 payment for that variety will be refunded. This allows me to know exactly how many of each grass

needs to be potted. I always dig some extras, but not necessarily of every kind.

Hopefully, I've answered some of your basic questions. Please ask me anything you are unsure about or if you would like some input on an area you are doing. You are welcome to visit the rest of the grounds and drying shed & shop. With my new greenhouse, I also carry a larger selection of perennials in the spring. If you see a plant you are interested in write it down on your order sheet and that will help me determine what to carry next year! Don't forget to sign up for the drawing. Help yourself to a drink! Thank you.

Tricia Remley

Note: Holiday Open House featuring dried florals and gifts will be November 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008 , Sat. 9-5 and Sun 1-5.

Keep this sheet for future reference.