

PLANTS of the WOODLAND GARDEN

August 2021

Warm-season grasses are an important part of the ecosystems found in the Parklands, especially meadows and savannas. Many of our native Kentucky grasses are also highly ornamental with beautiful foliage, flowers, and seeds. Here are just a few of the grasses coming into their own in late summer here in the Woodland Garden.



RIVER OATS

Chasmanthium latifolium

Unique seed structures dangle and move, and the whole plant turns golden brown and rustles in winter winds. Thrives in sun or shade and reseeds often.

Where to see: Throughout Woodland Garden, East Entry, Glen Garden



PURPLE LOVEGRASS

Eragrostis spectabilis

At home in dry, poor soil, the flowers of purple lovegrass form a reddish-purple cloud 18-24" high.

Where to see: Redbud Rondel

image: cc Katja Schulz



SWITCHGRASS

Panicum virgatum ('Heavy Metal,' 'Cape Breeze,' 'Dallas Blues')

Switchgrass grows tall and wide in our moist clay soils. Several varieties show off differences in color, texture, height, and shape.

Where to see: West Entry, Glade Garden, East Entry, surrounding meadows