

# Switchgrass

*Panicum virgatum*



## Description

Tall-growing perennial native warm-season bunchgrass. Deep-rooted rhizomatous grass. Some varieties tolerant of wet sites. Grows 3 to 7 feet tall.

## Uses

Hay, pasture, wildlife.

## Advantages

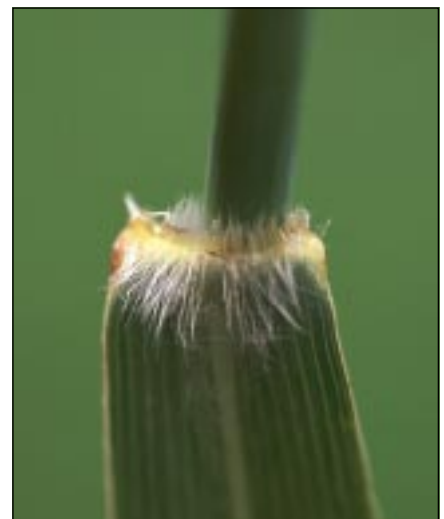
Drought tolerant, grows on poorly drained soils, seed is easy to handle in conventional seeders. Efficient user of nitrogen. Good summer growth.

## Disadvantages

Slow establishment and low seedling vigor. Poor animal acceptance when mature. Short growing season. Not tolerant of close, continuous grazing. Major growth occurs while cool-season forages are also productive.

## Seeding

Rate: 6-10 lb/a PLS\*  
Depth: ¼-½ in  
Date: Apr 15-Jun 1



Switchgrass leaves have a very hairy ligule that often has a dense tuft of hairs where the leaf joins the stem.

## Harvest

First harvest: Jun 1-Jun 15  
Annual yield: 3-5 tons dry matter/a

\*See page 8 for definition of PLS.