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

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

*See page 8 for definition of PLS.*