JOB'S NURSERY, LLC
GROWING SINCE 1940

## Switch Grass, Totem Pole

***Panicum virgatum 'Totem Pole'***

Height: 6 feet

Spread: 28 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 3a

Group/Class: Prairie Winds Collection

**Description:**

This sturdy selection forms a towering, strictly upright clump of striking steel blue foliage; golden seed heads in fall; perfect as a landscape accent, or along borders

**Ornamental Features**

Switch Grass, Totem Pole features airy plumes of gold flowers rising above the foliage from late summer to late fall. Its attractive grassy leaves emerge grayish green in spring, turning steel blue in color. As an added bonus, the foliage turns gorgeous shades of tan and in the fall. The gold seed heads are carried on showy plumes displayed in abundance from late summer to late fall. The steel blue stems are very colorful and add to the overall interest of the plant.

**Landscape Attributes**

Switch Grass, Totem Pole is an herbaceous perennial grass with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and is best cut back to the ground in late winter before active growth resumes. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Switch Grass, Totem Pole is recommended for the following landscape applications;



*Switch Grass, Totem Pole*
*Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder*



*Switch Grass, Totem Pole flowers*
*Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder*

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use

**Planting & Growing**

Switch Grass, Totem Pole will grow to be about 5 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 28 inches. It tends to be leggy, with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground, and should be underplanted with lower-growing perennials. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 15 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. To help this plant achive its best flowering performance, periodically apply a flower-boosting fertilizer from early spring through into the active growing season. It is not particular as to soil type, but has a definite preference for alkaline soils, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This is a selection of a native North American species. It can be propagated by division; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.



*Switch Grass, Totem Pole*
*Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder*