

Weekly Column for week of 2-22-10  
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## **Ornamental Grasses**

As spring planning continues, ornamental grasses are yet another option for the landscape. They can add spectacular texture and color to the yard and do not need to be pruned, except for cutting them down to the ground in the fall or spring. Ornamental grasses can come in a variety of colors. They are certainly not limited to different shades of green and even produce flowers.

Most ornamental grasses are perennials and are considered “bunch” or clump forming grasses. They do not spread very rapidly and basically stay in the general area that they are planted in. They will get wider over time. The good thing about this is that parts of a bunch can be lifted out and planted in other locations throughout the landscape.

Different types of ornamental grasses require different types of conditions to grow successfully. It is important to make sure the area you wish to plant the grass is the best location for the grass to grow. For more information about ornamental grasses, including a list of grasses and their requirements, you can visit the web at <http://www.hort.purdue.edu/ext/HO-219.pdf>. You can also contact your Elkhart County Extension office for more information.

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