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Ornamental Grass Demonstration Planting

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Ornamental Grass Demonstration Planting

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Introduction
In recent years, there has been a growing interest in the performance of ornamental grasses in the turfgrass industry. For several years, feedback from the annual Turfgrass Field Day has been that attendees want to see various ornamental grasses at the field day. This planting was designed to give those interested in ornamental grass performance an idea of how the grasses look at various times of the year, the spread of the grasses, and to demonstrate their winter hardiness. It also was designed for classroom purposes, specifically for plant identification and landscape design classes.

Materials and Methods
This planting is located at the Iowa State University Horticulture Research Station, Ames, Iowa, and was designed so grasses were planted according to mature plant heights. The plots were arranged with potential mature grass height increasing from south to north (Figure 1). There are 21 different grasses in this planting ranging from 2-10 plants/10 ft². Plants include Festuca glauca, Elijah Blue; Miscanthus sinensis, Strictus; Miscanthus sinensis, Silberfeder; Miscanthus sinensis; Schizachyrium scoparium, The Blues; Helictotrichon sempervirens, Saphirsprudel; Calamagrostis acutiflora, Karl Foerster; Calamagrostis acutiflora, Overdam; Miscanthus sinensis, Adagio; Pennisetum alopecuroides; Panicum virgatum, Heavy Metal; Panicum virgatum, Shenandoah; Molinia caerulea arundinacea, Skyracer; Deschampsia cespitosa, Bronzeschleier; Bouteloua curtipendula; Andropogon gerardii; Erianthus ravennae; Phalaris arundinacea, Strawberries & Cream; Schizachyrium scoparium, Blue Heaven. Two of the 21 have yet to be planted and they include a second cultivar of Deschampsia cespitosa and Miscanthus floridulus, Giganteus.

Results and Conclusion
No data was collected on this planting in 2017 as plants establish to this site. Observations will be made in 2018 on how many survive the winter and how well plants establish after a full year of growth. Some of the plants are considered marginally cold hardy in central Iowa, and it will be interesting to see if those plants survive the winter.

Acknowledgements
Appreciation is extended to the Iowa Turfgrass Institute for financial support of this project.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Miscanthus sinensis</strong> Adagio Alley</th>
<th><strong>Erianthus ravennae</strong> Alley</th>
<th><strong>Miscanthus floridulus</strong> Giganteus Alley</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pennisetum alopecuroides</strong> Alley</td>
<td><strong>Miscanthus sinensis</strong> Silberfeder Alley</td>
<td><strong>Miscanthus sinensis</strong> Alley</td>
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<td><strong>Calamagrostis acutiflora</strong> Overdam Alley</td>
<td><strong>Miscanthus sinensis</strong> Strictus Alley</td>
<td><strong>Andropogon gerardii</strong> Alley</td>
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<td><strong>Calamagrostis acutiflora</strong> Karl Foerster Alley</td>
<td><strong>Panicum virgatum</strong> Heavy Metal Alley</td>
<td><strong>Panicum virgatum</strong> Shenandoah Alley</td>
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<td><strong>Schizachyrium scoparium</strong> The Blues Alley</td>
<td><strong>Molinia caerulea arundinacea</strong> Skyracer Alley</td>
<td><strong>Schizachyrium scoparium</strong> Blue Heaven Alley</td>
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<td><strong>Deschampsia cespitosa</strong> Bronzeschleier Alley</td>
<td><strong>Deschampsia cespitosa</strong> Alley</td>
<td><strong>Phalaris arundinaceae</strong> Strawberries &amp; Cream Alley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Festuca glauca</strong> Elijah Blue Alley</td>
<td><strong>Helictotrichon sempervirens</strong> Saphirsprudel Alley</td>
<td><strong>Bouteloua curtipendula</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. Plot plan of ornamental grass demonstration planting at the Iowa State University Horticulture Research Station, 2017.