



A VARIETY of high-fashion floor tiles is available in Armstrong's Crafton collection. The vinyl-asbestos tile series includes effects ranging from crest patterns to basic wood and stone designs, many of which are color coordinated to permit use of similar or complementary tile designs in adjacent rooms of the home. The collection is available in 37 colors in a total of eight designs.

Suburban Gardener

Grasses As Attractive Indoors As Outdoors

By BETTY FRANKEL  
Special Writer

Grass can be a beautiful addition to the flower bed or shrub border. No, not lawn grasses that creep in, but ornamental grasses that are planted for their decorative effects.

There are kinds of ornamental grass that form large fountains of ribbon-like foliage with tall feathery plumes that rise high above the leaves. These make perfect accents or focal points in the garden.

There are others that form stiff bristly little mounds, suitable for the edge of the border or for a rock garden. In addition to their decorative use in the garden many of these ornamental grasses can be cut for use in fresh summer bouquets, or can be dried for use in winter arrangements. They are as attractive indoors as out.

One of the most striking of the ornamental grasses that grow in this area is plume grass (*Brizanthus Ravenneae*). It is a perennial which forms a mound of foliage three or four

feet high. In late summer many flower spikes are produced. These majestic silvery plumes rise to a height of 10 to 12 feet for a dramatic and long-lasting display.

FOUNTAIN grass, known botanically as *Miscanthus* or *Eulalia*, is equally decorative. The slender, rather stiff leaves which reach up to six feet in height are topped in late summer by a great profusion of feathery fan-shaped flower heads. These are a rich mahogany red tipped with white.

There is a variegated form of *Miscanthus* known as ribbon grass. It has handsome leaves striped green and gold. The foliage is 4 feet high. The feathery pink-beige plumes are five feet high. This makes a striking focal point, but allows ample room for the clump to develop forms less beautiful if crowded.

There is an ornamental form of bent grass - quite unlike the bent that covers golf greens. The ornamental bent is known as cloud grass (*Agrostis nebulosa*) and forms an ethereal mound somewhat over a foot high.

Another bent is known as silk grass (*Agrostis humilis*). Both are hardy annuals that are readily grown from seed. They are good for cutting and drying, too.

Hair grass (*Aira pulchella*) is a hardy perennial that forms tufts about nine inches tall. It makes an unusual edging for a flower border.

ANOTHER attractive edging plant is *Festuca ovina* glauca. This forms low, bristly mounds of a vivid silvery blue-green. This striking plant is also good in the rock garden or used as a ground cover.

One of the most interesting grasses for dried arrangements is quaking grass (*Briza*). There are several kinds that vary in size from a dainty six inches high to about 18 inches tall. The latter, *Briza maxima*, forms bushy plants with a profusion of dandling flattened cone-shaped heads in June and July.

For use in bouquets pick the stems just before the spikelets open. They can be used in fresh bouquets, or they can be placed in a vase and left to dry for winter use.

Quaking grass and many other ornamental grasses have escaped from cultivation and have established themselves in fields and meadows and along roadsides where their beauty is generally overlooked. Native wild grasses are beautiful, too.

Next time you ride along a country highway or pass an uncultivated field look for the delicately tinted pink or gold or beige flower spikes that form feathery plumes and ethereal puffs and clouds that are easily stirred by a passing breeze.

Reader Asks:

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These white cottony masses along the twigs and branches of maple are severe this year. It attacks primarily maples. It may kill large branches or severely weaken trees. The young crawlers hatch from eggs laid under the white masses.

Within the next few days most of the eggs should be hatching here.

CONTROL: Sprays should be applied now with two tablespoons per gallon of 50 per cent wettable Sevin (two pounds per 100 gallons) or two tablespoons per gallon of 4-Floable Sevin (one quart per 100 gallons).

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