



# Chicagoland Grows®, Inc.

Plant Introduction Program – Plant Release Bulletin #58

*Panicum* 'Blue Lime' Hybrid Switchgrass  
PPAF - Poaceae (Grass family)

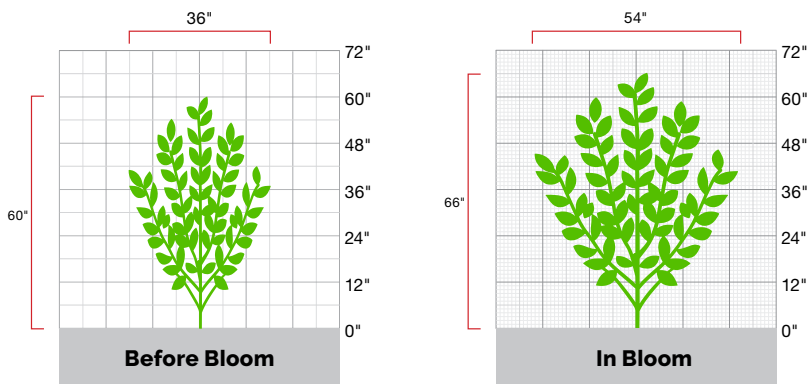




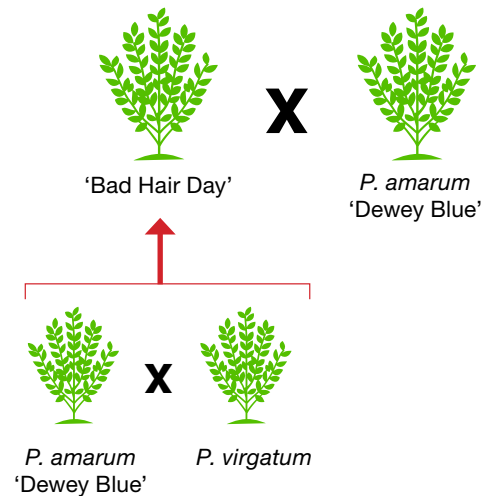
## Description

Chicagoland Grows® presents its second switchgrass cultivar, 'Blue Lime'! This hybrid cultivar retains the abundant panicles of its predecessor and parent 'Bad Hair Day' but has a more refined presence. 'Blue Lime' begins its growing season with a flush of vertical blue-green foliage in late spring. In midsummer, bright yellow-green glumes that bestow a unique effervescence to panicles as they arch outward, contrasting well with the blue-green foliage. Fall sees plants take on a tawny hue before overwintering the typical gray-white. 'Blue Lime' is smaller than both of its parents and has a particularly narrow base. This, combined with the pendulous leaves and panicles, gives 'Blue Lime' a pleasing fountain shape. Thanks to its size and color, 'Blue Lime' can serve several purposes. It can be planted in the back of perennial garden beds, along property lines as a hedge, or individually as a specimen plant. In the latter case, its narrow foliage would nicely complement large perennials with broad foliage.

## Plant Size



## Parentage



## Plant Habit

- Columnar and vase-shaped through July, arching and fountain-like thereafter
- No lodging observed

## Pest/Disease Issues

- Rust resistance equal to other cultivars
- No pest damage or deer/rabbit browsing observed

## Culture

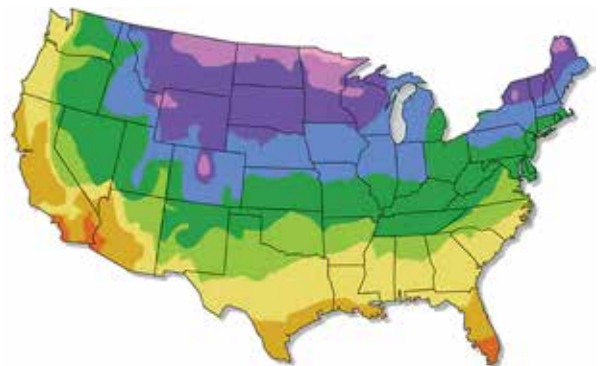
- Sun: full sun preferred
- Soil: adaptable, well-drained preferred
- Water: irrigate first year to establish, unnecessary thereafter
- Maintenance: cut previous year's growth to 6 inches in spring
- Misc: potentially more drought and salt tolerant due to the *Panicum amarum* in its genetic background

## Propagation

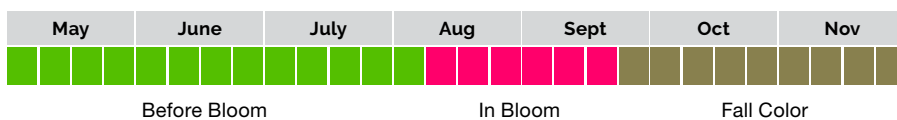
- Divide dormant rootstock into approximately 2 inches pieces in spring and provide with 65°F bottom heat

## Hardiness

USDA Zones 4-8



## Bloom Season



Chicagoland Grows® is a nonprofit corporation of the Chicago Botanic Garden, The Morton Arboretum and the Ornamental Growers Association of Northern Illinois (OGA). The Chicagoland Grows® Plant Introduction Program is dedicated to the evaluation, selection, production and marketing of recommended and new plant cultivars. Plants selected for the program have proven to be adaptable to the Midwest and are made available to the commercial and retail landscape industry through an international network of growers and propagators ©2025 Chicago Botanic Garden