Switchgrass - On-Farm Biomass for Bioenergy

Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*)
- native, fast-growing warm-season (C₄) perennial grass.
- high net energy yield per acre and low cost of production.
- efficient use of marginal land and good water use efficiency.
- suited to existing farm equipment and practice.
- mod-high productivity.
- low maintenance.
- tolerates acidic soils.
- stand longevity.
- low NPK requirements.
- soil restoring properties.

Establishment
- poor seed quality.
- weed competition.
- one year* for full crop.

Recommended Varieties
- Blackwell, Cave-in-Rock, Shawnee, Carthage, Shelter, Sunburst

Market Possibilities
- hay-feed.
- pellets-heat (ash).
- biofuel for ethanol.

Switchgrass Projects
- Establishment and variety evaluation. (Fund by Mass DAR)
- Costs of production. (Fund by Mass. DOER)

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