

Switchgrass

Biomass for Bioenergy

Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*)

- native, fast-growing warm-season (C₄) perennial grass.
- utilizes solar radiation effectively at high temperatures.
- 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.

Market Possibilities

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

Switchgrass Projects

- Establishment and variety evaluation.
(Funded by Mass DAR)
- Costs of production.
(Funded by Mass. DOER)



Stephen Herbert, Randall Probstak and Dan Forberg Dept. of Plant, Soil, and Insect Sciences,
and Timothy Randhir, Dept. of Resource Conservation