

# ALL-STAR PLANTS



## PAST - PRESENT - FUTURE

*Pennisetum purpureum Vertigo*® ('Tift 8' PP 22254) —

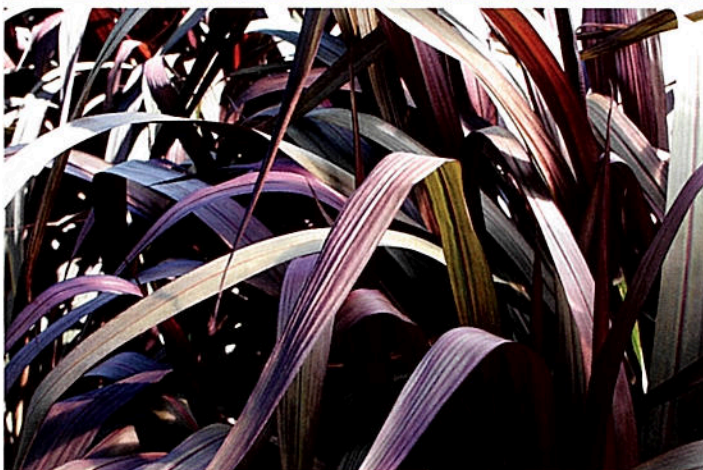
**Some plants** — just like All-Star athletes — make everyone around them look better. What's a plant you can use—and recommend — with confidence? We've asked ILCA members to share their thoughts on proven performers.

Looking for an alternative to traditional fountain grass for summer and fall containers? Try *Pennisetum Vertigo*. A millet, it is a unique, visually interesting alternative that offers greater height for greater visual and architectural impact. Yet unlike other millets that tend to fade to bronze—especially in the heat—*Vertigo* matures to a deep purple/black.

The foliage, which begins greenish purple and slender, grows wider and deeper in color as the season progresses. It adds a great contrast to fine and delicate elements in the landscape or containers and contrasts nicely with bright, eye-catching flowers.

A warm season grass, *Vertigo* grows 36-48 inches tall and 24-36 inches wide and does not flower. This heat-tolerant plant grows in full sun (or at least afternoon sun) and average soil moisture.

An annual in our climate, *Vertigo* can be massed in borders or used as a dramatic vertical element in containers. Try it with Ruby Red Perfection cabbage whose waxy leaves and soft color make a wonderful accompaniment to the bold *Vertigo*. *Celosia Prestige Scarlet*'s flowers offer a bright contrast to the dark foliage. Other great combinations include *Plectranthus Mona Lavender*, *Ceratostigma Plumbaginoides Blue*, *Euphorbia Diamond Frost* or *Petunia Potunia Papaya*. Don't forget pansies this fall. Their bright splash of color will combine with *Vertigo* to carry your containers into fall. ❁



<i>Pennisetum purpureum Vertigo</i> ® facts—	
<b>Flowers:</b>	<b>Culture</b>
No flowers	Full sun to part shade (afternoon sun) in moderate to dry soil
<b>Size:</b>	<b>Foliage:</b>
3-4' tall with spread of 2-3'	Spiky, upright, purple foliage

**Sarah Bottner**  
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Sarah has worked in the industry for six years. She started her career at Didier and Elawa Farms working with customers, volunteers and farm management. Recently she moved to Clesen Wholesale as a sales representative. She has experience with annuals, annual planters, perennials, vegetables and a wide array of additional farm products.

