

Switchgrass

DESCRIPTION

Switchgrass is a perennial grass that grows from 5-12 ft tall. Switchgrass contains high lignocellulosic biomass and requires low chemical inputs. While it is not currently grown in Wisconsin, switchgrass grows in various types of soils and is drought and flood resistant.

CLASSIFICATION

Lignocellulose, starches & sugars

SOURCE INDUSTRY

See the [Grains & Crops industry roadmap](#).

ANNUAL VOLUME GENERATED IN WISCONSIN

2-3 tons/acre; 6-8 tons/acre with fertilizer¹

CURRENT APPLICATIONS

Animal consumption; energy crop (co-firing)

PRICE

\$23/bale

APPLICABLE BIOREFINING PROCESSES

[Anaerobic digestion](#), [biomass gasification](#), [combustion](#), [fast pyrolysis](#), [fermentation of lignocellulosic biomass](#), [fiber composites manufacturing](#), [thermochemical liquefaction](#)

REFERENCES

¹ Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems. Switchgrass Production for Biomass. University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI. www.wisc.edu/cias/pubs/briefs/051.html (21 April 2004).

Bransby, David. Switchgrass Profile. Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, TN. bioenergy.ornl.gov/papers/misc/switchgrass-profile.html (21 April 2004).