

# Splendor with the Grass

A touch of copper turns garden-variety grasses into long-lasting, elegant bouquets.

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Photos KRITSADA

#### ONLY FITTING

A copper pipe coupler holds purple fountain grass, horsetail, and maiden grass in a freestanding centerpiece. Miniature versions with canary grass hold place cards.



4 copper fittings for \$165

## COPPER ECLECTIC

Junk drawer finds such as a napkin ring (2) and a doorknob (3) are perfect holders for grasses. Copper plumbing fittings, (1) and (4), are sold in hardware stores, usually for less than \$1 apiece.

Grasses and sedges shown are:

- 1) 'Ice Dance' sedge (*Carex*)
- 2) Ruby grass (*Melinis nerviglumis*), feather reed grass (*Calamagrostis*), and silver maiden grass (*Miscanthus*)
- 3) Sea oats (*Chasmanthium*)
- 4) Seed heads of reed canary grass (*Phalaris*) and switch grass (*Panicum*), with feather reed grass





**SINGLES ONLY**

The graceful foliage of sedges (tall *Carex* 'Evergold' and shorter 'Ice Dance') contrasts with wispy maiden grass (background).



**Balancing Act**

To get a grass bouquet to stand upright, make sure the cut ends are all flush with one another. This should create a flat bottom that will allow the bouquet to stand on its own (as pictured on page 112). If a bouquet is too unbalanced to stand unaided, slide a copper fitting over its base to provide a firm support, as shown here.

*For buying information see page 258.*