

Overview of Switchgrass in Iowa

Dr. Michael Duffy

Professor

Iowa State University

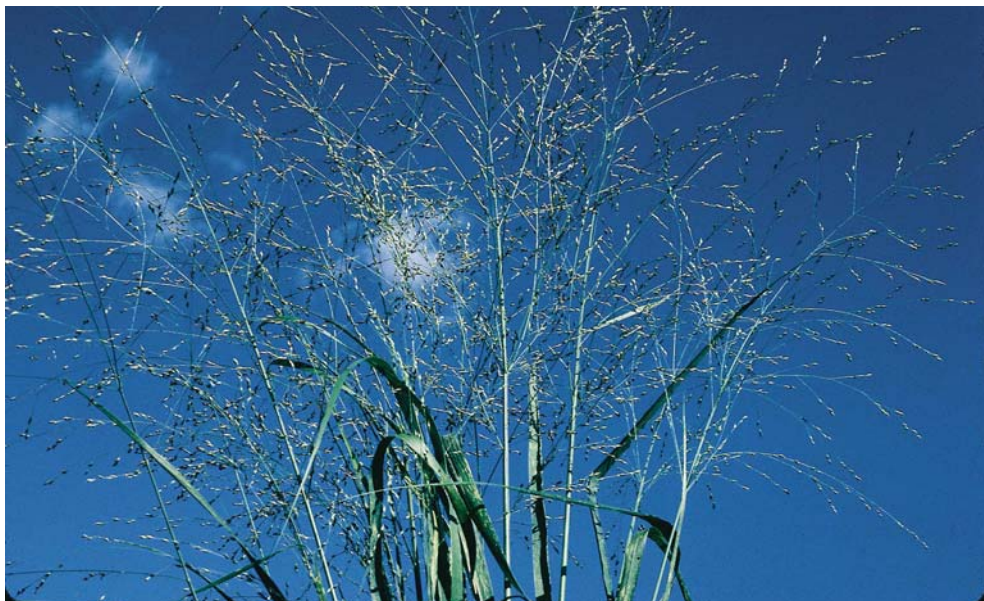
Wednesday, August 17

2:00 p.m.

226 Morgan Hall

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL
ECONOMICS
SEMINAR SERIES

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Switchgrass has been examined extensively as a biomass crop to produce energy, offering potential benefits because it can grow well on marginal soils with moderate input use and provide environmental benefits.

Dr. Duffy's seminar will provide an overview of current switchgrass production and use in Iowa, including a discussion on the record high land values and the impending changes in Iowa farm land ownership. The seminar will include discussion on advantages to switchgrass production for Iowa farmers, costs of producing switchgrass in Iowa, and farmers' attitudes toward switchgrass as an alternative/energy crop. There will also be some discussion of tools to use to help close the gap between costs of production and use of switchgrass as a replacement for coal. The seminar will also include discussion on the future of switchgrass and the bioeconomy in Iowa.

About Dr. Duffy ...

Dr. Duffy received his Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from Penn State in 1981. He received a B.S. in Natural Resources from the University of Nebraska in 1975 and an M.S. in Agricultural Economics from Nebraska in 1977. He joined the Iowa State University staff as an Extension area farm management specialist in 1984 and moved to his present position on campus in 1985. Prior to joining the ISU faculty, he worked as an economic researcher for the USDA in Washington, D.C.

At Iowa State, Dr. Duffy is the Associate Director for the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture. He also works as an Extension Economist in farm management. Dr. Duffy is the Professor-in-Charge of the Iowa State Beginning Farmer Center.

Dr. Duffy is currently responsible for the annual land value survey, cost of crop production estimates, Iowa farm costs and returns publication, and he is state leader for the Extension Farm Financial Planning Program. His research activities include determinants of farm profitability, small farms, soil conservation, integrated pest management, and sustainable agriculture.