

Plant Facts

Fountain Grass - *Cenchrus setaceus*

Previously known as: *Pennisetum setaceum*

Other common names: Purple Fountain Grass, Plume Grass, African Fountain Grass, Annual Fountain Grass,



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FOUNTAIN GRASS

Cenchrus setaceus

Frost Tender Perennial Ornamental Grass



Full Sun/Part Shade

Water: Medium

3-4'Tall x 2-3'Wide **Color:** Burgundy-red Flower Plumes

Blooms: Summer to fall Fountain shape

Grown by a Denton County Master Gardener

General Information

Popular ornamental grass with dark purple or burgundy-colored arching foliage. Grows well, even in poor soil. Its striking foliage and foxtail plumes show up when surrounded by contrasting plants. Purple fountain grass is heat tolerant and may be grown as a hedge, specimen, or back of border plant.

Characteristics

Hardiness Zones: 9-10

Size: by 2-3 ft w x 3-4 ft h

Flowers: Tall, upright purple spikes

Bloom Time: July thru October

Leaves: Long, arching, grass-like

Growth Habit/Shape: Tall mounds

Dormancy: Depends on Winter cold*

Soil Requirements: Does well in any soil

Propagation: Division, seeds

Indoor/Outdoor: Outdoor

Pests and Diseases

N/A

Plant Care

Easy to grow in most any soil in sun to light shade. The plant requires supplemental water during dry spells and a light dose of balanced fertilizer. Plant after frost as transplants. *The plant is hardy from Austin southwards so will likely not survive winters in North Texas. With that in mind, use it as an annual grass and if it's a mild winter, it will be a bonus! If desired, it can be overwintered inside or in a greenhouse.

Notes

Does not survive Winter temps below 20-25 degrees

Sources for Additional Information

Missouri Botanical Garden

[https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=251872&isprofile=1&asic=purple%20fountain%20grassPennisetum setaceum](https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=251872&isprofile=1&asic=purple%20fountain%20grassPennisetum%20setaceum)

NC State Extension

<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/cenchrus-setaceus/common-name/green-fountain-grass>