

Plant Facts

Mexican Feathergrass *Nassella tenuissima*

Other Common Names: Needle Grass, Mexican Wiregrass, Texas Tussock



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MEXICAN FEATHERGRASS

Nassella (Stipa) tenuissima

✶ **Native Perennial Ornamental Grass**



Full Sun / Part Shade **Water:** Low, very drought tolerant

1-2' Tall/Wide **Color:** Silvery Green

Thread-like grass with white seed heads summer-fall

Grown by a Denton County Master Gardener

General Information

This perennial has a beautiful wispy texture and gracefully billows in the breeze. The delicate threadlike foliage varies from shades of silver to tan colored seed heads that form in late spring. The grass may go dormant in severe heat. It prefers full sun to partial shade areas. This grass is native to Texas rocky slopes and open areas.

Characteristics

Hardiness Zones: 7-9

Heat Tolerance: Very high

Height Size: 1' tall by 2' wide

Flowers: None

Bloom Time: Seed heads spring thru fall

Leaves: Light silvery green. Simple alternate leaves with a rough to touch surface.

Pests and Diseases

Generally, disease resistant and no known pests.

Plant Care

Mexican Feathergrass is considered a medium sized border or accent plant. Grows best in sunny locations with well-drained soil. It will however tolerate partial shade, difficult soil and especially drought conditions. Should not be watered more than once per week and does not like heavy mulch. This is a low maintenance grass with self-sowing tendencies. Foliage should be left for winter interest and wildlife shelter. Shear this grass in early spring.

Warning

None

Sources for Additional Information

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. [Nassella tenuissima](https://www.wildflowercenter.org/plant-profile/nassella-tenuissima)

TAMU Aggie Horticulture. [Mexican Feathergrass \(Nassella tenuissima \(Stipa tenuissima\)\)](https://aggiehorticulture.tamu.edu/plant-profile/nassella-tenuissima-stipa-tenuissima/)

TAMU Earth-Kind Landscaping. [Mexican Feathergrass](https://earthkind.tamu.edu/plant-profile/nassella-tenuissima/)
 Texas SmartScape. [Mexican Feathergrass](https://smartscape.texas.gov/plant-profile/nassella-tenuissima/)