

# Plant Facts

## Purple Fountain Grass *Pennisetum setaceum* 'Rubrum'

**Other Common Names:** Purple Fountain Grass



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### PURPLE FOUNTAIN GRASS

*Pennisetum setaceum* 'Rubrum'

**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 well 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

**Heat Tolerance:** Medium

**Size:** 3-4' tall by 2-3' wide

**Flowers:** Tall upright purple spikes

**Bloom Time:** July thru October

**Leaves:** Long, grass-like leaves

### Pests and Diseases

N/A

### Plant Care

Easy to grow in most any soil in sun to light shade. The plant requires some supplemental water during dry spells and a light dose of balanced fertilizer. Plant anytime from containers. Cut back dead foliage to the ground in fall or spring. The plant is hardy to 20 degrees, so it may not survive very cold winters in North Texas and should be considered as an annual grass.

### Warning

Does not survive winter temps below 20 degrees

### Sources for Additional Information

Missouri Botanical Garden. [Pennisetum setaceum 'Rubrum'](https://www.mbg.org/plant/pen/pennisetum-setaceum-rubrum/)

North Carolina Extension Gardener. [Cenchrus-setaceus](https://www.ncagr.org/extension/2017/04/11/pen-setaceus/)