Snavely's GARDEN CORNER

Over 50 YEARS OF SERVICE
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Princess Fountain Grass

Pennisetum purpureum 'Princess'



Princess Fountain Grass foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 30 inches

Spread: 3 feet

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Description:

A durable ornamental grass grown for its rich purple foliage that intensifies with the heat of summer, eventually forming a gracefully arching mound; does not produce flowers or seeds; ideal for massing or containers

Ornamental Features

Princess Fountain Grass is primarily valued in the garden for its cascading habit of growth. It attractive grassy leaves are burgundy in color. As an added bonus, the foliage turns a gorgeous brick red in the fall.

Landscape Attributes

Princess Fountain Grass is an herbaceous annual with a shapely form and gracefully arching foliage. It brings an extremely fine and delicate texture to the garden composition and should be used to full effect.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Princess Fountain Grass is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Princess Fountain Grass will grow to be about 30 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 3 feet. Although it's not a true annual, this plant can be expected to behave as an annual in our climate if left outdoors over the winter, usually needing replacement the following year. As such, gardeners should take into consideration that it will perform differently than it would in its native habitat.

This plant should only be grown in full sunlight. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist growing conditions, but will not tolerate any standing water. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for a low-water garden or xeriscape application. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Princess Fountain Grass is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. It can be used either as 'filler' or as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, depending on the height and form of the other plants used in the container planting. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.