



## Plant Finder



### Princess Caroline Fountain Grass

*Pennisetum purpureum 'Princess Caroline'*

Height: 4 feet

Spread: 5 feet

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 7b

Other Names: Purple Fountain Grass, Elephant Grass

#### Description:

A durable ornamental grass grown for its burgundy-green foliage that intensifies to deep purple in late summer, eventually forming a gracefully arching mound; primarily grown for foliage, and will not flower in frost areas; ideal for massing or containers

#### Ornamental Features

Princess Caroline Fountain Grass' attractive grassy leaves are burgundy in color with pointy deep purple spines. As an added bonus, the foliage turns a gorgeous deep purple in the fall. Neither the flowers nor the fruit are ornamentally significant.

#### Landscape Attributes

Princess Caroline Fountain Grass is an herbaceous perennial grass with a shapely form and gracefully arching stems. 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 Caroline Fountain Grass is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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



*Princess Caroline Fountain Grass*  
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



*Princess Caroline Fountain Grass foliage*  
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



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### Planting & Growing

Princess Caroline Fountain Grass will grow to be about 4 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 5 feet. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years.

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 Caroline Fountain Grass is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its height, it is often used as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.