Red Riding Hood Purple Fountain Grass

Pennisetum setaceum 'Red Riding Hood'



Red Riding Hood Purple Fountain Grass in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 24 inches

Spread: 24 inches

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 8

Other Names: Dwarf Purple Fountain Grass

Group/Class: Graceful Grasses Series

Description:

A showy dwarf variety of fountain grass used as a color accent in the garden or containers; an upright clump of deep burgundy-purple bearing bottlebrush flowers that change from red to tan; may be treated as an annual; favored as a municipal planting

Ornamental Features

Red Riding Hood Purple Fountain Grass has masses of beautiful plumes of red flowers with tan overtones rising above the foliage from mid summer to late fall, which are most effective when planted in groupings. Its grassy leaves are plum purple in color. As an added bonus, the foliage turns a gorgeous dark red in the fall.

Landscape Attributes

Red Riding Hood Purple 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.

Red Riding Hood Purple Fountain Grass is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

Red Riding Hood Purple Fountain Grass will grow to be about 24 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 24 inches. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!

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.

Red Riding Hood Purple 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.