Wallis Fescue

Festuca valesiaca var. glaucantha



Wallis Fescue
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Plant Height: 6 inches

Flower Height: 12 inches

Spread: 10 inches

Spacing: 8 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4

Other Names: Buddy Blue Fescue

Description:

A charming, extra dwarf selection, featuring spiky clumps of powder blue foliage with silvery highlights; light tan flowers appear above the clump in late spring to early summer; makes a fantastic low border or edging; perfect for rock gardens

Ornamental Features

Wallis Fescue features airy spikes of tan flowers rising above the foliage from late spring to mid summer. Its attractive grassy leaves remain powder blue in color with hints of silver throughout the year. The tan seed heads are carried on showy spikes displayed in abundance from mid summer to late fall.

Landscape Attributes

Wallis Fescue is an herbaceous evergreen perennial grass with a mounded form. 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. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Wallis Fescue is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Wallis Fescue will grow to be only 6 inches tall at maturity extending to 12 inches tall with the flowers, with a spread of 10 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 8 inches apart. Its foliage tends to remain low and dense right to the ground. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 8 years. As an evegreen perennial, this plant will typically keep its form and foliage year-round.

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers to grow in average to dry locations, and dislikes excessive moisture. 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, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This species is not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division.

Wallis Fescue is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. It is often used as a 'filler' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, providing a mass of flowers and foliage against which the thriller plants stand out. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.