Variegated Foxtail Grass

Alopecurus pratensis 'Aureovariegatus'



Variegated Foxtail Grass foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 20 inches

Spread: 24 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 2

Other Names: Meadow Foxtail, Golden Foxtail

Description:

Showy and ornamental, this variety of grass is a lovely addition to garden beds, borders or containers; presenting long and narrow, green and gold foliage; turns a beautiful yellow in the fall; a low maintenance and easy to grow selection

Ornamental Features

Variegated Foxtail Grass is primarily valued in the garden for its cascading habit of growth. It attractive grassy leaves are green in color with showy gold variegation. The foliage often turns yellow in fall.

Landscape Attributes

Variegated Foxtail 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 plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Self-Seeding

Variegated Foxtail Grass is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Variegated Foxtail Grass will grow to be about 18 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 24 inches. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. 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! As this plant tends to go dormant in summer, it is best interplanted with late-season bloomers to hide the dying foliage.

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. 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. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in both summer and winter to conserve soil moisture and protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This is a selection of a native North American species. 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.

Variegated Foxtail 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. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.