Regal Princess™ Fountain Grass

Pennisetum 'Tift 15'

Height: 4 feet

Spread: 4 feet

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 7

Other Names: Ornamental Napier Grass

Group/Class: Royal Collection



Regal Princess Fountain Grass
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Regal Princess Fountain Grass
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Description:

A disease resistant selection, grown for its exceptional purple foliage with black overtones that intensify with the heat of summer, eventually forming a gracefully arching mound; ideal for massing or containers

Ornamental Features

Regal Princess Fountain Grass is primarily valued in the landscape or garden for its cascading habit of growth. It attractive grassy leaves are purple in color with showy burgundy variegation and tinges of black. As an added bonus, the foliage turns a gorgeous brick red in the fall. The red seed heads are carried on plumes from late summer to mid fall.

Landscape Attributes

Regal Princess Fountain Grass is an herbaceous perennial grass with a shapely form and gracefully arching stems. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

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.

Regal Princess Fountain Grass is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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



Regal Princess Fountain Grass
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Regal Princess Fountain Grass will grow to be about 4 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 4 feet. 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. This plant should not require much in the way of fertilizing once established, although it may appreciate a shot of general-purpose fertilizer from time to time early in the growing season. 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 particular variety is an interspecific hybrid. 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.

Regal Princess 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. 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.