Atlas Fescue

Festuca mairei



Atlas Fescue foliage

Height: 24 inches

Spread: 3 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4

Other Names: Moroccan Fescue

Description:

A hardy and attractive, semi-evergreen to evergreen clump grass with very fine foliage and tidy habit, makes a fantastic accent in the border, not a spreading grass; heat and drought tolerant once established, but appreciates regular watering

Ornamental Features

Atlas Fescue is primarily valued in the garden for its interestingly mounded form. Its attractive grassy leaves remain khaki (brownish-green) in color with hints of light green throughout the year. The tan seed heads are carried on spikes from mid summer to late fall.

Landscape Attributes

Atlas 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.

Atlas Fescue is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

Atlas Fescue will grow to be about 24 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 3 feet. 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 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. This plant does not require much in the way of fertilizing once established. 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 species is not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division.

Atlas Fescue 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.