



Slender Veldt Grass

Pennisetum spathiolatum

Plant Height: 24 inches

Flower Height: 4 feet

Spread: 24 inches

Sunlight: ☐

Hardiness Zone: 7

Description:

Fine textured dark green narrow foliage with a mounded habit; tall wirey flower stalks produce tan colored flowers, starting in late spring, that seem to dance above the foliage; beautiful as an accent or massed in borders; evergreen in mild climates

Ornamental Features

Slender Veldt Grass has masses of beautiful spikes of tan flowers rising above the foliage from late spring to late summer, which are most effective when planted in groupings. Its attractive grassy leaves remain dark green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Slender Veldt Grass is an herbaceous perennial grass with tall flower stalks held atop a low mound of foliage. 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.

Slender Veldt Grass is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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



Slender Veldt Grass
 Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Slender Veldt Grass will grow to be about 24 inches tall at maturity extending to 4 feet tall with the flowers, 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 somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division.

Slender Veldt Grass is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use 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.