



Peruvian Feather Grass

Jarava ichu

Height: 4 feet

Spread: 3 feet

Sunlight: ○ ●

Hardiness Zone: 7

Description:

An upright, arching grass with finely textured light green foliage; graceful silvery-white plumes rise up in summer, and persist through fall and winter as foliage turns gold; drought tolerant once established

Ornamental Features

Peruvian Feather Grass has masses of beautiful plumes of silver flowers with white overtones in mid summer, which are most effective when planted in groupings. Its attractive grassy leaves are light green in color. The foliage often turns gold in fall. The white seed heads are carried on showy plumes displayed in abundance in late fall.

Landscape Attributes

Peruvian Feather 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 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.

Peruvian Feather Grass is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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



Peruvian Feather Grass flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Peruvian Feather Grass
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Peruvian Feather Grass will grow to be about 3 feet 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 fast 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 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. 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.

Peruvian Feather 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.