

MEXICAN FEATHER GRASS

Common names: Needle Grass

Botanical name: *Nassella tenuissima*

General information: This perennial has a beautiful wispy texture and gracefully billows in the breeze. The delicate threadlike foliage varies from shades of silver to tan colored seed heads that form in late spring. This cool season bunchgrass may go dormant in severe heat. It prefers full sun to partial shade areas. Its fine texture provides a beautiful contrast to woody plants or other leafy perennials. A single plant can serve as an accent or a mass planting can provide impact as a groundcover. Mexican Feather Grass is native to Texas rocky slopes and open areas.



Characteristics:

Size: Height: up to 2 feet high
Width: up to 2 feet wide
Dense clump forming

Flowers: Non-flowering
Delicate seed heads in Spring to early summer

Leaves: Bright green, wispy and fine-textured arching leaves.

Pests and Disease Problems: Generally, disease resistant. None known.

Growing in North Texas

Mexican Feather Grass is often seen in borders en masse plantings. It is considered a medium sized border or accent plant. Plant it in a sunny, well-drained soil site. However, it tolerates partial shade, difficult soil, and drought conditions. The plants have low fertilization needs. According to the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center's Native Plant Database, Mexican Feather Grass should not be watered heavily more than once a week and may rot under heavy mulch. Mexican Feather Grass is low maintenance and tends to self-sow. Leave the dormant foliage up thru the winter for winter interest and shear the grass in late February/ early March.

References:

[Texas Cooperative Extension — Ornamental Grasses](#)

[Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center's Native Plant Database](#)

Keywords (tags): sun, ornamental grasses, perennials, texture