

QUICK REFERENCE PLANTING GUIDE

LIGHT/SUN EXPOSURE	Full sun.
USDA HARDINESS ZONES	Winter hardy in-ground in zones 9 to 10. In zones 3 to 8, we recommend planting in containers so you can move the plants indoors before the first frost.
PLANT TYPE	Annual/Tropical.
PLANTING DISTANCE IN-GROUND	At least 3 feet apart.
CONTAINER SIZE	One plant per 12-inch or larger container.
MATURE HEIGHT / SPREAD	4 to 5 feet tall with a 2 to 4 foot spread.
BLOOM TIME	Late summer.
TIME TO REACH MATURITY	2 to 3 years.
FACTS OF NOTE	Vibrant colors. Deer resistant. Great for mixed containers.

SOIL PREPARATION

We recommend having your soil tested periodically by your local County Extension Office (www.nifa.usda.gov/extension or by calling 1-800-333-4636). A soil test can determine if your soil needs any amendments to enhance the growth and performance of your plants.

Ideal garden soil is easy to dig in and drains well while still holding the nutrients and water vital to plant growth. To prepare a bed for in-ground planting, spade or till the soil to a depth of roughly 12-18 inches. Next, spread a 2-4 inch layer of organic matter such as compost, shredded leaves or peat moss over the soil and mix well.

Thank you for your order!

PLANT WARRANTY

We warrant perennials for 1 year and annuals for 90 days from the time of the original shipment. If for any reason you are dissatisfied, we will replace your plant with a similar or comparable one, at no charge. If your replacement is not available or it is too late in the season to ship, it will reship the following shipping season.

If you have any questions or concerns about your order, please contact us at 888-593-3644 or help@cottagefarmsdirect.com.

Caution: Do not assume any plant is safe to eat. Only parts of plants expressly grown to be eaten should be considered edible. As with any product that is not food, care should be taken to make sure that small children and pets do not ingest any part of a plant that is not expressly grown to be eaten.

Unless specifically stated, this product is intended for ornamental horticultural use only and is not intended for consumption or ingestion by humans or pets. Most plants are harmless but some contain toxic substances which can cause adverse health effects. Furthermore, some individuals and some animals are sensitive or allergic to certain plants and precautions should be taken to limit or avoid physical contact with particular plants. Some plants have thorns or spines that can be painful if handled.

**In case of ingestion contact a poison control center immediately.
1-800-222-1222**

PENNISETUM FOUNTAIN GRASS



*Image on cover is representative of the type of plant(s) in this offer and not necessarily indicative of actual size or color for the included variety.

OUT OF THE BOX

PENNISETUM FOUNTAIN GRASS

Your plants have been shipped to you in pots. We urge you to remove them from the shipping box and plant them as soon as possible. Should planting be delayed due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances, roll the plastic bag down around each plant and place them near a bright window or other sunny location. Keep them well-watered in their pots until permanently planted. Once planted, they begin setting roots and, as the weather warms, begin showing new growth. Please plant as soon as possible, provide reasonable care and be patient.

The foliage on potted plants may appear slightly wilted or yellow upon arrival. This is due to the stress of shipping and is usually nothing to worry about. Water the plant thoroughly, place it in a shady location for a few days and remove any foliage that does not recover.



SHIPPED AS SHOWN

PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

In zones 3-8, we strongly recommend planting in containers in order to properly protect the plants from winter damage. See *Winterizing Instructions*.

Important: Thoroughly hydrate the plants by submersing the root zone in a container of water for 10 minutes while you prepare for planting.

A Fill the container with soil to within 4 inches of the top. Remove the pot and prepare the root ball for planting by gently disturbing the surface roots with your fingers, fork, or gardening tool and pruning any damaged roots. Dig a hole in the soil to insert the lower part of the root ball.

PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS (Continued)

B Once the plant is properly positioned in the pot, begin filling the pot with soil. Work the soil around the root ball with your hands, firming the soil around the plant with your fingers. When the hole is filled, tamp the soil to remove any air pockets.

C Water well and, if necessary, adjust the plant so it is upright and add additional soil if needed. Check to be sure the plant is not planted too deeply. If it is, raise the plant carefully and re-firm the soil.



CONTINUING CARE

Adequate and consistent watering is essential during your plant's first year in the garden. Infrequent, long soakings of water that thoroughly saturate the soil are more effective than frequent, light applications of water.

Due to variable geographical and environmental conditions, a specific watering schedule is difficult to define. However, as a rule of thumb, you should not allow the soil or the original root ball to completely dry out. During the first summer, you may need to water as often as every few days in periods of drought and extreme summer heat. To determine if your plant needs water, dig a few inches into the soil next to the plant. If the soil is dry 2-3 inches below the surface, it is time to water.

Overwatering can be as damaging as under watering. Be sure that the area surrounding your plant has adequate drainage to move water away from the plant. If you choose to plant in a container, always select one with drainage holes to prevent your plant's roots from sitting in water.

WATERING

CONTINUING CARE (Continued)

MULCHING Apply a 2-4 inch layer of shredded bark, compost, leaves, straw or other organic matter around your plants to promote moisture retention, maintain even soil temperatures and discourage weed growth. Replenish the mulch as needed.

WEEDING Keep the area around your plants free of weeds. Weeds compete with surrounding plants for food, water and light. Walk around the garden periodically and pull weeds, including the roots, as soon as you see them.

PRUNING Remove dead, damaged or unsightly growth as needed to maintain an attractive appearance. Cut containerized plants back to about 6 inches in height before bringing them indoors for the winter. In-ground plantings should be cut back to the ground in late winter or before new growth begins in early spring.

FEEDING Feed your plants once every 2-3 weeks during the growing season with a water soluble fertilizer. Discontinue feeding after September 1st to allow your plants to harden off for winter dormancy. Resume fertilizing when new growth appears in the spring.

WINTERIZING In mild zones (9-10), fountain grass can be left in the ground during winter. If freezing weather threatens, protect the roots by mounding a layer of shredded bark, compost, leaves, straw or other organic material around the base of each plant. Potted plants should be moved into a protected area on exceptionally cool nights.

In colder zones (3-8), fountain grass should be treated as an annual or moved indoors for the winter. Place the plants in a cool room with a bright window and water sparingly over the winter. Do not over-water or allow your plants to sit in water.

In spring after the threat of freezing weather has passed, remove mulch from in-ground plantings and bring containerized plants back outdoors for the summer.