Ruby Grass
Melinis nerviglumis

Ruby grass is a semi-evergreen grass from southern Africa. It has blue-green foliage that turns purplish-red in the fall and showy pink flowers that rise a foot above the foliage in the spring and summer. Peak bloom is late summer to early fall when the clumps are covered in the pink panicles. They are good in both dried and fresh cut flower arrangements. Plant ruby grass in full sun in any well-drained soil. It is a warm season grass that performs best in hot conditions. Although it is somewhat drought tolerant, it will perform better with consistent moisture.

**Type:** tender perennial ornamental grass

**USDA hardiness zones:** 8 through 11

**Uses:** container or planter; deck or patio; specimen; mass planting

**Origin:** not native to Florida

**Height:** 1 to 2 feet  
**Spread:** 1 to 3 feet

**Plant spacing:** 15 to 18 inches

**Light requirement:** full sun to part shade

**Soil tolerances:** sand; loam; acidic; alkaline; well-drained; occasionally wet

**Drought tolerance:** moderate

**Aerosol salt tolerances:** moderate

**Invasive potential:** low

**Pest resistance:** resistant to pests/diseases

Photo: Wisconsin Extension

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