

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

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Photo: Wisconsin Extension