Pampas Grass, Ivory Feathers

Cortaderia selloana 'Pumila'



Pampas Grass, Ivory Feathers flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Plant Height: 5 feet

Flower Height: 8 feet

Spread: 6 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 6b

Description:

A smaller variety, producing a clump of narrow, grassy foliage that arches outward; large white plumes tower above the foliage and persist for a long time; tolerates some light shade; considered nearly sterile but will occasionally self-seed

Ornamental Features

Pampas Grass, Ivory Feathers features showy plumes of white flowers rising above the foliage from late summer to late fall. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its attractive spiny grassy leaves remain green in color throughout the season. The tan seed heads are carried on showy plumes displayed in abundance from late fall to late winter.



Pampas Grass, Ivory Feathers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Pampas Grass, Ivory Feathers 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 cut back to the ground in late winter before active growth resumes. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Invasive
- Self-Seeding

Pampas Grass, Ivory Feathers is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Pampas Grass, Ivory Feathers will grow to be about 5 feet tall at maturity extending to 8 feet tall with the flowers, with a spread of 6 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 is a dioecious species, meaning that individual plants are either male or female. Only the females will produce fruit, and a male variety of the same species is required nearby as a pollinator.

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. To help this plant achive its best flowering performance, periodically apply a flower-boosting fertilizer from early spring through into the active growing season. 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 is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Pampas Grass, Ivory Feathers 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.