



Feather Reed Grass (*Calamagrostis Acutiflora*)

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Calamagrostis Acutiflora is a hybrid ornamental grass resulting from a cross between two species native to Europe and Asia. This plant can add height to a perennial garden and provide winter interest in cooler climates. Clumps of narrow leaves are dwarfed by flower stems that reach 4-6' tall in summer, bearing feathery flower spikes. Flowers are followed by golden seeds which mature to tan - seeds are sterile. Karl Foerster is the most popular of the hybrid feather reed grasses. This grass works well in fresh or dried arrangements.

Type	Perennial
Hardiness Zone	4 - 9
Sun	Full Sun
Bloom Time	Late spring/summer, persisting to fall
Height	Foliage 2+' tall with bloom stalks reaching 4-6'
Spread	2'
Tolerance	Water regularly, tolerate dry spells when established
Attracts	Birds
Additional Features	Winter interest, good for erosion control, fast growth

Soil and Site Recommendations

- Drainage: thrives in wet soil but tolerates dry conditions
- Soil pH: acid, alkaline or neutral
- Type: clay, loam or sand

Planting Recommendations

- Type: ornamental grass
- When to plant: fall or spring
- Depth of planting: plant roots at same depth as in container
- Mulching: can help maintain moisture
- Spacing: 18 - 24"
- Spread: 1 - 2'
- Division/transplant tips: spring or fall

Maintenance

- Watering: moderate; weekly or more often in extreme heat
- Fertilization: minimal needs; compost or all-purpose plant food
- Pinching/deadheading: none
- Annual maintenance: cut down in late winter to 4-6" above the ground before new foliage emerges

Common Problems

Disease: none serious; watch for rust in prolonged rainy periods

Insects: none

Resources

<https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/articles/feather-reed-grass-calamagrostis-x-acutiflora-karl-foerster/>

https://hvp.osu.edu/pocketgardener/source/description/ca_flora.html

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=b810>

Questions or problems: What to do with ornamental grasses in the spring:

<https://blog-yard-garden-news.extension.umn.edu/2018/05/what-to-do-with-ornamental-grasses-in.html>

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Karl Foerster Grass can add height to your landscape design



Feathery flower spikes are followed by golden seeds with mature to tan