PLANT FACT SHEET

Pennisetum alopecuroides (L.) Spreng.

GENUS *Pennisetum* **FAMILY** Poaceae

COMMON NAMES Chinese fountain grass, Fountain grass, Swamp foxtail

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Cereal

The grains are eaten.

DESCRIPTION

An evergreen grass. It grows 60-120 cm high and wide. It forms a clump or mound. The leaves are narrow and arching. They are 0.6-1 m long and 0.6 cm wide. They are dark green. They are hairy along the edges. The flower heads are fuzzy and purple. They are 7-20 cm long by 2-3 cm wide. They weigh down the stem tips. The flower stems are 1 m long.

HABITAT

It grows in temperate regions but can also grow in the tropics and subtropics. It needs well drained soil. It can grow in full sun or light shade. It can tolerate light frosts. In China it grows from sea level to 3200 m altitude. It suits hardiness zones 5-9. In Sichuan and Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed or by division of the clump.

NOTES

There are about 100 Pennisetum species. It is used for forage.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/c6ba79a8-f5e6-482a-bc43-e6acf5a8a033