Longfellow's Greenhouses

Purple Baron Millet

Pennisetum 'Purple Baron'

Plant Height: 24 inches

Flower Height: 3 feet

Spread: 24 inches

Spacing: 18 inches

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Description:

A warm season annual grass selected for its boldy coarse foliage which starts out green turning dark purple-burgundy over the summer and showy burgundy seed heads that persist into winter for a dramatic effect; use as a garden accent



Purple Baron Millet in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Purple Baron Millet features bold plumes of burgundy flowers rising above the foliage from early summer to early fall. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its attractive large grassy leaves emerge green in spring, turning deep purple in color with showy burgundy variegation. As an added bonus, the foliage turns a gorgeous brick red in the fall. The tan seed heads are carried on showy plumes displayed in abundance from early fall to late winter.



Purple Baron Millet in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Purple Baron Millet is an herbaceous annual with a shapely form and gracefully arching foliage. Its relatively coarse texture can be used to stand it apart from other garden plants with finer foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. It is a good choice for attracting birds to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Purple Baron Millet is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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- Accent
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Purple Baron Millet will grow to be about 24 inches tall at maturity extending to 3 feet tall with the flowers, with a spread of 24 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 18 inches apart. This annual will normally live for one full growing season, needing replacement the following year.

This plant should only be grown in full sunlight. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist growing conditions, but will not tolerate any standing water. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for a low-water garden or xeriscape application. 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 particular variety is an interspecific hybrid. 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.

Purple Baron Millet 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.