

Plant Name: Briza media
Common Name: Common Quaking Grass

Plant Type: Grass

Colour: green turning to golden shades

Height: 30cm

Spread: 80cm

Flowering Time: Flowers from Aug to Sep

Cutflower: Yes



Species Data (applies to all plants in this Plant Species)

Perennial grass forming a dense tuft of linear, finely bristle-margined, blue-green leaves to 15cm long. From late spring to midsummer, erect stems produce open, pyramidal panicles to 18cm long, of 4 to 12 flowered, nodding heart-shaped spikelets to 1cm long; purple tinted green at first, they later turn straw coloured and are arranged like a rattlesnake's tail.

Plant Uses:

Architectural, Cottage/Informal Garden,
Drought Resistant,
Flower Arranging,
Flowers Borders and Beds,
Low Maintenance or Mediterranean

Plant Data (applies to THIS plant only)

Hardy Perennial.

Foliage: Blue - green
Flowering period: August to September
Height: 30cm (12")
Spread: 80cm (32")
Position: Full Sun to partial shade
Aspect: All aspects. Exposed or Sheltered
Soil: Tolerant of most well drained fertile soil

Ornamental Grass *Briza media*: "The Quaking Grass" has blue green leaves and flower heads that hang like scaly little heart shaped lockets that are tinged with pink from late spring to mid summer. An easily-grown perennial *Briza* that prefers richer soil than most grasses and will tolerate semi shade well. Very easy to grow to perfection

A native grass, that is worthy of a place in any border when its large quaking seed heads erupt over the foliage in summer. When first open, the seed heads are green but they gradually take on golden shades as summer progresses and become almost animated when touched by a gentle summer breeze. *Briza media* has graceful, pendant, nodding flowers, a wonderful cut flower adding elegance and feeling to summer and winter decorations.

Once the plant is established, divide in March to April. It is relatively easy to propagate by division. Do this in spring, not autumn, as some newly divided plants may rot before they've developed a good root system.

Briza media "Quaking Grass"

Doddering Dillies, Wildflower of the British Isles

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Sowing:

Best sown where they are to flower in spring. Grow in sun and in well drained soil. Sow 6mm (¼in) deep in rows 30cm (12in) apart in well cultivated soil which has been raked to a fine tilth. Germination is occasionally slow, so be patient! Thin out the seedlings to 23cm (9in) apart. Replant the seedlings that have been removed

Aftercare:

Feed in spring like ordinary perennials, with a single dressing of a general fertiliser. Even without an annual feed, most grasses will put on a first-rate show.

The more nitrogen grasses receive the greener and further they'll grow. This spreading habit is fine in a field, but in a garden they may become too lush and the flower quality may suffer.

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Drying:

Briza media can be dried and make interesting focal or secondary flowers in dried arrangements. Particularly useful at Christmas when they can be sprayed silver, gold etc

To dry, gather when the heads have changed colour but before they start to break up, cut the flower at the height of bloom and hang upside down in a cool, dark place to dry. If dried correctly they will hold their colour well.

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