

**Plant Name:** *Stipa pennata*  
**Common Name:** European Feather Grass

**Plant Type:** Grass perennial  
**Colour:** silver grey  
**Height:** 35cm  
**Spread:** 30cm

**Flowering Time:** Flowers from Jun to Sep

**Cutflower:** Yes



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

pennata

**Plant Data (applies to THIS plant only)**

'European Feather Grass'. Very elegant silver grey flower heads. 75cm

Perennial Ornamental grass, very long and elegant silver grey flower heads. Used in dried flower arrangements  
Perennial

cover with thin layer fine vermiculite  
Sow October to November for plants ready March to May  
Sow from February  
Sow Indoors January to March  
Sow Outdoors cold frame, nursery bed April to June

Genus: *Stipa*  
Species: *pennata*  
Family Name: Gramineae/Poaceae  
English Name: Feather Grass, Ornamental Grass seeds  
Description: So called for its very long, feathery awns, up to 14 ins. in length, which trail gracefully in the wind. A particularly attractive ornamental grass. 2½ ft.

Classification: Hardy, Ornamental Grasses, Perennial

It is a perennial, with fibrous roots; leaves in thick tufts, upright, long, narrow, sharp, rather rough, and dark green; sheaths of leaves striated, very long, especially the uppermost one, which is also considerably swollen, inclosing the young head of flowers, rising above it when blooming, the leaf being bent back, pendulous, striated, and with edges turned inwards; stipules oblong, blunt; panicle or head of flowers on a stem about a foot high, erect, composed of six or seven flowers; calyx of two nearly equal, spear-head shaped, concave, pointed valves, containing one floret; corolla of two valves nearly equal in length, the outer valve spearhead shaped, edges turned in, slightly keeled, with a terminal, twisting, feathery awn, sometimes a foot long, jointed, and finally

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separable at the base; inner valve much narrower, awnless, turned in at the edges, smooth. Seed cylindrical, pointed, loose, closely inclosed in the hardened outer valve of the corolla, which is very sharp, and barbed with bristles at the base, so that, after being borne through the air sustained by the long awn, when it alights upon the soil it there soon penetrates, and is retained by the barbs.

The beautiful and feathery appearance of the awns arises from their being thickly set with very fine, soft, whitish, semi-transparent, diverging hairs.

It is found on dry, mountain, rocky soils, and in such a situation was discovered about the year 1724, by Dr. Richardson, in company with Thomas Lawson, both good botanists, on the limestone rocks hanging over a little valley, called Long Sleedale, about six miles north of Kendal, in Westmoreland. (Ray's Synopsis, 3d ed., p. 393.) No one has detected it there since, nor in any other part of the British Islands, and we fear that it no longer belongs to our native Flora. It blooms in August, and ripens its seed about the middle of September. It belongs to the Triandria Digynia class and order of the Linnsean system.

It is readily propagated by division in the spring, and flourishes in an open situation and light soil, especially if the soil contains chalk, or has lime-rubbish mixed with it.