Savannah Ruby Grass

Melinis nerviglumis 'Savannah'

Height: 24 inches

Spread: 24 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: Zizka

Description:

A stunning cold tender perennial producing mauve-pink clusters of flowers, gracefully aching above narrow blue-green foliage; great for edging or mass planting; flowers fade slowly to pink, then white; an excellent filler for cut flower arrangements

Ornamental Features

Savannah Ruby Grass features showy clusters of pink flowers with violet overtones at the ends of the stems from early to late summer. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its attractive grassy leaves remain bluish-green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Savannah Ruby Grass is an herbaceous annual with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined 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 butterflies to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Savannah Ruby Grass is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting



Savannah Ruby Grass in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Savannah Ruby Grass flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Savannah Ruby Grass will grow to be about 24 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 24 inches. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. Although it's not a true annual, this fast-growing plant can be expected to behave as an annual in our climate if left outdoors over the winter, usually needing replacement the following year. As such, gardeners should take into consideration that it will perform differently than it would in its native habitat.



Savannah Ruby Grass
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America. 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.

Savannah Ruby Grass is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use 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.