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Pennisetum alopecuroides

[Synonyms : *Alopecurus hordeiformis*, *Gymnotrix compressa*, *Panicum alopecuroides*, *Panicum americanum*, *Pennisetum alopecoroides*, *Pennisetum compressum*, *Pennisetum hordeiforme*, *Pennisetum japonicum*, *Pennisetum typhoideum*, *Pennisetum villosum*, *Setaria compressa*]

FOUNTAIN GRASS is a perennial grass. Native to eastern Asia (especially Japan) it has bristly, yellowish-green to dark purple flower spikelets.

It is also known as *Chikara shiba* (Japanese), Chinese fountain grass, Chinese pennisetum, *Michi shiba* (Japanese), Rose fountain grass, and Swamp foxtail grass.

The flowers are pollinated by the wind.

Alopecuroides is made up of the genus name *Alopecurus* and and Greek *-oides* (like) components meaning ‘like the cylindrical spikes of plants in that (foxtail grass) genus’.

Locally the small, light brown seeds have been eaten cooked and, when ground, have been used as flour. It has been noted too that they have provided emergency rations when other food has been scarce.

The grass has been cultivated as groundcover and ornamental grass.

South-eastern Asian experts note that fountain grass is primarily viewed in that region as an animal feedplant.