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Pennisetum setaceum

[Synonyms : *Pennisetum asperifolium*, *Pennisetum atrosanguineum*, *Pennisetum cupreum*, *Pennisetum erythraeum*, *Pennisetum macrostachyon*, *Pennisetum macrostachyum*, *Pennisetum orientale* var. *altissimum*, *Pennisetum phalaroides*, *Pennisetum rueppelianum*, *Pennisetum rueppellii*, *Pennisetum ruppelii*, *Pennisetum scoparium*, *Pennisetum spectabile*, *Phalaris setacea*]

CRIMSON FOUNTAIN GRASS is an annual or perennial grass. Native to the Middle East (especially Arabia), tropical Africa and to south-western Asia, it has long silky plumes of pinkish-purple tinged, yellow spikelets

It is also known as African fountain grass, *Alula* (Ethiopian), Annual fountain grass, Fountain grass, Purple fountain grass, Rose fountain grass, Ruby grass, and Tender fountain grass. The seed heads shatter shortly after maturity and the seeds are dispersed by wind, livestock, water, humans and vehicles.

This grass is declared an invasive noxious weed in Hawaii.

Setaceum is derived from Latin *saeta* (bristle, stiff hair) meaning ‘bristled’.

This drought- and wind-resistant grass is cultivated as an ornamental plant in parks and gardens in many countries including Ethiopia, South Africa and parts of the United States.

Crimson fountain grass is not deemed of much interest as pasture.

Environmentally it poses a severe fire hazard in some regions to which it has been introduced, such as Hawaii, by increasing the intensity and spread of any fire. Further after a fire it re-establishes itself with such rapidity that can make it difficult for native plants to revive.

The spikelet plumes are popular in both fresh and dried flower arrangements – but the seed heads are rarely used in arrangements because they split so quickly once they are ripe.