



Pennisetum setaceum

Poaceae

Crimson fountaingrass



PESE3

KEY CHARACTERISTICS

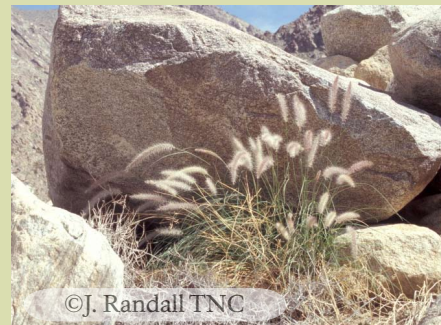
- growth** Sparsely branching, tufted perennial grass 0.2-1 m high.
- stems** Densely clumped growth form and erect stems.
- leaves** Mostly basal, up to 40 mm long x 3 mm wide, not rigid or ending in sharp points. Edges of leaves have minute teeth, which catch when brushed backwards.
- Inflorescence** Feathery (bristly), spike-like inflorescences; the bristles long and detaching with the spikelets. Cylindrical, 100-250 mm long or more, usually purple or rose-colored, bristles about 20 mm long.
- fruit** Fruits are small, dry achenes adorned with long showy bristles.



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flower color

Elevation:

Ecotypes Invaded:

Approx. up to 4800 feet Desertlands, grasslands, riparian & woodlands.

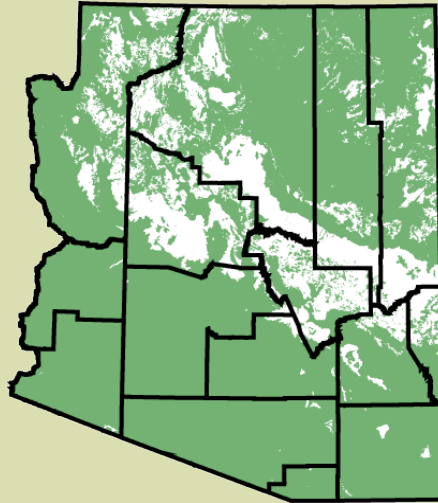
ECOLOGY & DISTRIBUTION

Although found in a wide elevation range, fountain grass is limited to areas with annual rainfall of less than 50 inches. In the SW United States, fountain grass invades grasslands, deserts, canyons and roadsides.

It has been introduced in Pima County as an ornamental grass along medians of roadways. From here, it can spread out into the natural environment over great distances by wind, water, vehicles, livestock or humans.

Its ability to spread quickly and change fire regimes makes it a potential threat to native species such as the velvet mesquite (*Prosopis velutina*) and the saguaro cactus (*Carnegiea giganteus*).

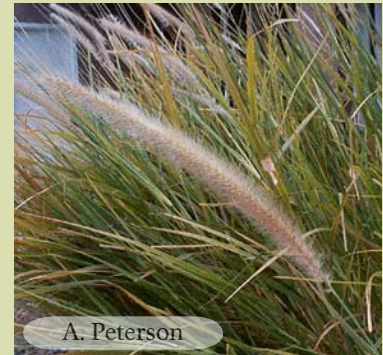
SUITABLE HABITAT



Suitable habitat based on the Arizona Wildlands Invasive Plant Working Group (AZ-WIPWG) assessment. Green = suitable habitat; White = unsuitable habitat; Gray = unknown. Based on Brown, Lowe & Pase (1980) vegetation communities.



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A. Peterson