



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Deer Grass

Muhlenbergia rigens

DESCRIPTION: Dependable and adaptable, Deer Grass is the backbone of many desert gardens. The lush green-grey foliage softens boulders, cacti, and is ideal for use around water features. It grows up to 4 feet tall, with seed spikes in the fall a foot or so higher. Deer Grass is native to the Southwest at elevations up to 7000 feet and thrives in varied conditions. It flourishes in full sun and difficult reflected heat exposures, and tolerates a fair amount of shade. In the fall it sends up slender tan flower spikes that create a stunning contrast with the mound of luxuriant foliage. Since Deer Grass can reseed if watered with overhead irrigation systems, drip irrigation is recommended.

RECOMMENDED USE: Use around pools or fountains, as part of an accent for its form, in light shade, and in enhanced desert landscapes or xeriscape.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: Hardy to 0°F.



Sun tolerance: Full sun to part shade.



Watering and feeding: Deer grass is extremely drought tolerant, although the foliage browns out if adequate water is not available in the summer. It also handles high rainfall. Fertilizing not necessary, but adds to size and growth rate.



Soil requirements: Virtually any soils, but prefers fast draining soil.



Pruning: Cut back in early spring to encourage lush growth.