



# *PENNISETUM ALOPECUROIDES L.*

**Fam. Poaceae**

## DESCRIPTION

Coarse (it can withstand temperatures of -15 °C / 5 °F), very long-lived, fast-growing plant. It produces a compact rounded bush in a “fountain” shape, about 60 cm tall.

## HABITAT

This species is native to Asia.

## DISTRIBUTION

It is a perennial herbaceous plant that grows spontaneously in many countries across four continents (Asia, America, Australia and Europe). In Italy, it is grown in all regions, including islands, as an annual or perennial species.

## FLOWERS

Bundled in showy inflorescences with feathery spikes, they grow on the tops of slender pale-green stems. The inflorescences are yellow when in full bloom, then they gradually darken until brownish. It blooms from July to October and flowering is persistent throughout the winter.

## ROOTS

The plant has a sturdy root, firmly anchored to the ground.

## LEAVES

Flat, linear, with smooth margins and a pointed apex, the leaves are intense green; in autumn, they take on a splendid, rich amber-golden tint that lasts until the end of winter.

## STEM

Long, stiff, robust and reddish stems.

## INTERESTING FACTS

The name *Pennisetum* comes from Latin – meaning quill or feather – and is due to its feathery, silky inflorescences; it is also commonly known as “Foxtail fountain grass”.