

# *How to Care for a Fountain Grass*

## Pennisetum alopecuroides 'Hameln, 'Little Bunny

### **SELECT SITE:**

Light Requirements: Part Shade(4-6 hrs/day), may not flower much in Part Shade, to Full Sun (more than 6 hrs/day), preferred light condition for flowers & seeds

This perennial grass will grow larger:

space 'Hameln 18 in. away from other plants and/or structures

space 'Little Bunny 12 in. away from other plants and/or structures

Thrives in average, well drained soil as well as peripheries of water gardens, ponds & streams.

Garden Uses: As a specimen or in a group for textural contrast to borders, foundations, rock gardens.

Ideal USDA Plant Hardiness Zones: 5,6,7,8,9

### **PLANT PREP:**

Open box upon arrival, remove packing materials to let the plant "breathe". Remove plastic bag, tape, and newspaper. Water well. There are drainage holes in the bottom of the pot so do this outside where the extra water will drain away.

### **HOLE PREP:**

Dig saucer shaped hole. The depth is determined by measuring the height of the roots from root flare to bottom. The width is 2-3 times the root ball diameter. Using these calculations, the ideal hole for the new bush will be approximately 10" tall by 24" wide.

### **PLANTING:**

Put garden soil in a wheelbarrow or on a tarp. Mix the garden soil with equal amounts of mulch, peat moss, and potting soil. Place plant in hole and adjust for aesthetics. Hold in place while adding more soil, until the hole is completely filled. Push soil down until firm. Do not plant the shrub deeper than it has already been growing. Water well immediately after planting. Mulch evenly to a depth of 2-3 inches being sure to stay at least 4" away from its stems.

### **FUTURE MAINTENANCE:**

Cut foliage to the ground in late winter before new growth begins. In Zone 5, where winters are harsher, it is best sited in a protected location. Water regularly (being careful to not overwater) during first growing season to establish an extensive root system; water occasionally once established, more in containers and extreme heat. If desired, fertilize in spring when new growth begins. Apply 2 tbsp. of an all-purpose slow release fertilizer upon the ground in a band around the plant at least 6" away from its stems.