TAGAWA gardens

Red Baron Japanese Blood Grass

Imperata cylindrica 'Red Baron'

Height: 18 inches

Spread: 18 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4

Other Names: Cogon Grass, Japanese Imperial Grass

Ornamental Features

Red Baron Japanese Blood Grass' attractive grassy leaves are green in color with prominent dark red tips on a plant with an upright spreading habit of growth. As an added bonus, the foliage turns a gorgeous dark red in the fall. The dark red stems are very colorful and add to the overall interest of the plant.

Landscape Attributes

Red Baron Japanese Blood Grass is an herbaceous perennial grass with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Invasive

Red Baron Japanese Blood Grass is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting



Red Baron Japanese Blood Grass foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Red Baron Japanese Blood Grass
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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Planting & Growing

Red Baron Japanese Blood Grass will grow to be about 18 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 18 inches. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 20 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It does best in average conditions that are neither too wet nor too dry, and is very intolerant of standing water. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is quite intolerant of urban pollution, therefore inner city or urban streetside plantings are best avoided, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Red Baron Japanese Blood Grass is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. It is often used as a 'filler' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, providing a canvas of foliage against which the larger thriller plants stand out. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.



Red Baron Japanese Blood Grass
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder