

*Melinus nerviglumis*

*Bristle-leaved Red –Top Grass*

Melinus nerviglumis is an indigenous grass commonly known as Bristle-leaved Red-Top Grass. The common name refers to the fluffy pink plumes of flower heads that the grass produces in the summer months.

This grass can be described as a hardy, tufted, clump-forming perennial. It has rolled leaf blades that turn grey-green as they mature with each clump reaching approximately 45-50 cm in height and 50 cm in width.

Melinus nerviglumis grows in the full sun and is generally not fussy about soil type, in its natural environment it is often found in shallow rocky soils, alongside roads or on slopes. It does however prefer and perform best in a well drained soil and once established is water wise and drought tolerant. It requires very little attention but should they become a little untidy, dead leaf matter can be removed at the end of winter.

Melinus nerviglumis flowers from early summer with straight stems of fluffy heads. The flower heads are densely covered with glistening silky hairs which start off the colour of purple or rose pink and fade to a silvery- white as they mature. The flowers create a graceful effect and can be used in fresh and dried flower arrangements.

Melinus nerviglumis is a highly decorative grass that can be used in borders, mixed beds or in pots. It can be planted alongside other grasses or used as an individual specimen but when used en masse in beds it creates a remarkable display of graceful swaying stems. Perfect to create ’wild grass land’ gardens which are loved by birds and insects.