

CAREX 'FEATHER FALLS'

A Quick Clean-Up



We all need a haircut from time to time:

Carex oshimensis 'Feather Falls' is a surprisingly robust strappy leaved plant that thrives in the extremes of heat and cold, growing successfully in Australian gardens from the frosty valleys of Tasmania to the tropical coast of north Queensland both in the open ground and in pots. Its long and graceful leaves inspire the name 'Feather Falls' and they can grow to more than a metre in length. While this makes an impressive display, it can start to look a little shabby sometimes. These leaves will gradually die back and be renewed over time, but if you want to speed up the process a simple haircut is in order.



Long leaves are a feature of 'Feather Falls', but sometimes they need a cut back

The Solution – ready, set, chop:

Often gardeners are worried that if they cut too hard the plant won't recover, but with 'Feather Falls' you need not fear as this is a super tough plant that is easy to cut back and will reward with plenty of fresh new growth. We can assume that the plant is in good health if it is producing an abundance of foliage, so it will have a strong root-system – this is the engine from which the new growth will come.

As with all grasses and sedges, the new growth emerges from the base of the plant, so when you cut back old leaves, new leaves come through rapidly, quickly creating a new looking plant. So, grab your secateurs, give them a sharpen to make sure you are making clean cuts (blunt or wobbly secateurs will tear the leaves which will create dead bits on the leaves that will look unsightly and brown) and chop hard. You can comfortably cut back to about 6-8cm from the ground – this will look a bit drastic initially, but it will only take a few short weeks before the plants recover and look fab again.

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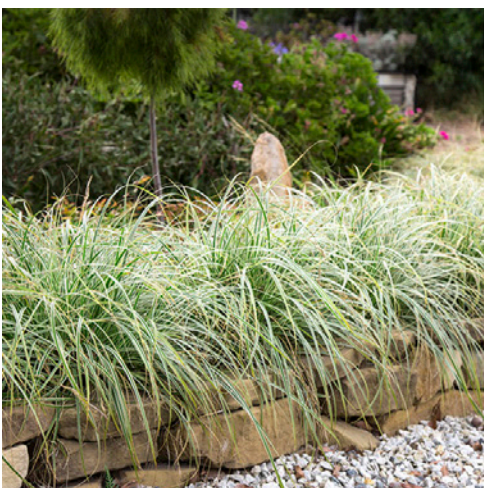
Chop back to 6-8cm from the ground



A few weeks later, fresh new growth emerges

After cutting back the plant it is important that the growing conditions you provide are conducive to a speedy recovery. Through hot and dry weather keep the water up so the roots don't go dry, this is especially important if you are growing your plant in a pot. It is always best to check the soil moisture by looking under the mulch and checking the soil itself and only watering when needed. If you've had plenty of natural rainfall, don't water too much – it's the Goldilocks rule, not too much nor too little, but just right.

Along with water, it is a good idea to feed up the plant and a liquid feed is the best way to give your plant a quick boost. You can do this every week or two to help the plant rebound with plenty of glossy new leaves



Carex 'Feather Falls' makes a fine pot or garden feature.