

Cyprus papyrus 'Prince Tut'

Cyprus papyrus 'Prince Tut' is Proven Winners' annual plant of the year for 2022. The annual category is one of several in the company's National Plants of the Year Award Program that highlights landscape-worthy plants and shrubs. To be selected a plant must be recognizable, readily available locally or online and simple to grow regardless of a gardener's expertise.



Cyprus papyrus 'Prince Tut'

Prince Tut meets all the criteria. It is distinguishable by its huge grass-like poms sitting atop sturdy stems. It is found at most local garden centers as well as online. At a nursery, it is usually marketed as a thriller plant in container combos. Disease and pest free, it is considered low maintenance, a perk for any gardener.

Prince Tut requires part to full sun or four to six hours of direct sunlight each day. It likes moist to wet growing conditions making it a good candidate for bog and water gardens. If used as the focal plant with annuals and/or perennials, the filler and trailer plants must like extra water. I use Prince Tut as a stand-alone plant in a decorative container of water, in the shallows of the water garden or combined with other water plants in a large container.

Prince Tut is a sedge, a member of the Cyperaceae family. If ordered on line, it will come bareroot. Purchased locally, Prince Tut will probably be planted in a six-inch azalea pot or a one-gallon grower's pot. I pot or repot into a two- or three-gallon container to accommodate its spreading thick rhizome. I prefer a pot with drain holes to allow water in without completely submerging the pot. Fertilize when planting and again around the 4th of July. It grows up to 36-inches tall, half the height of *Cyperus papyrus* 'King Tut.'



Japanese beetle wanders around on a huge tassel top of Prince Tut but does no damage

Prince Tut is tropical, hardy in zone 10 and up where it stays green year around. In colder zones it can be an annual and replaced yearly or make it a houseplant for the winter. Inside, sit it in a large bowl/saucer of water located in a sunny to bright location in the home. *Cyperus papyrus* 'Prince Tut' is a showstopper outside or in. It looks exotic adding a touch of the tropics wherever grown.