Ebony Knight Mondo Grass

Ophiopogon planiscapus 'Ebknizam'



Ebony Knight Mondo Grass foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 10 inches

Spread: 12 inches

Spacing: 9 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4

Description:

Noted for its slowly spreading clumps of narrow leaves that appear black, bell shaped creamy white flowers in summer; striking when massed along borders; not actually a grass, more closely related to lilies, but it sure looks like one

Ornamental Features

Ebony Knight Mondo Grass features dainty nodding white bell-shaped flowers rising above the foliage from mid to late summer. Its attractive grassy leaves remain black in color throughout the season. It produces black berries from early to mid fall.

Landscape Attributes

Ebony Knight Mondo Grass is a dense herbaceous perennial grass with a mounded form. Its medium texture blends into the garden, but can always be balanced by a couple of finer or coarser plants for an effective composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Ebony Knight Mondo Grass is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Ebony Knight Mondo Grass will grow to be about 10 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 12 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 9 inches apart. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 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 to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. 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.

Ebony Knight Mondo 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 mass of flowers and foliage against which the 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.