Variegated Basket Grass

Oplismenus hirtellus 'Variegatus'



Variegated Basket Grass foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 6 inches

Spread: 12 inches

Spacing: 8 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 8

Description:

This grass variety is popular as a container or basket plant; beautiful tri-colored leaves create a stunning mat in shady areas, or cascade beautifully from hanging baskets; water regularily; can be invasive in warm climates

Ornamental Features

Variegated Basket Grass' attractive narrow leaves remain olive green in color with showy white variegation and tinges of pink throughout the year on a plant with a spreading habit of growth.

Landscape Attributes

Variegated Basket Grass is an herbaceous evergreen perennial grass with a ground-hugging habit of growth. 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 plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and should be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Spreading

Variegated Basket Grass is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting
- Hanging Baskets

Planting & Growing

Variegated Basket Grass will grow to be only 6 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 8 inches apart. Its foliage tends to remain low and dense right to the ground. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years. As an evegreen perennial, this plant will typically keep its form and foliage year-round.

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. 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 cuttings; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Variegated Basket Grass is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor containers and hanging baskets. Because of its spreading habit of growth, it is ideally suited for use as a 'spiller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the edges where it can spill gracefully over the pot. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.