Juniper Haircap Moss

Polytrichum juniperinum



Juniper Haircap Moss
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Plant Height: 1 inch

Flower Height: 3 inches

Spread: 12 inches

Spacing: 10 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 1

Description:

This variety grows across a wide gradient of habitats, but is best in dry, acidic enviroments; will tolerate moisture; male flowers are red rosettes at the end of stems; female flowers rise on dainty spikes; an interesting addition to a rock garden

Ornamental Features

Juniper Haircap Moss' attractive needle-like leaves emerge light green in spring, turning bluish-green in color with prominent red tips throughout the season on a plant with a spreading habit of growth.

Landscape Attributes

Juniper Haircap Moss is an herbaceous perennial with a ground-hugging habit of growth. It brings an extremely fine and delicate texture to the garden composition and should be used to full effect.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and can be pruned at anytime. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Juniper Haircap Moss is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Juniper Haircap Moss will grow to be only 1 inch tall at maturity extending to 3 inches tall with the flowers, with a spread of 12 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 10 inches apart. Its foliage tends to remain low and dense right to the ground. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 5 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 is very adaptable to both dry and moist locations, and should do just fine under typical garden conditions. 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 species is native to parts of North America. It can be propagated by division.

Juniper Haircap Moss is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. 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.