Star Rush

Rhynchospora colorata

Height: 24 inches

Spread: 24 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 8

Other Names: White-topped Sedge, Starrush Whitetop, Star Sedge

Description:

This interesting variety is a showy addition to a bog or water garden, but will also grow in a regular garden with plenty of water; tiny flower clusters are framed with elegant long white bracts; perfect for wet, poorly drained areas

Ornamental Features

Star Rush features showy white star-shaped flowers at the ends of the stems from late spring to mid summer. The "flowers" are actually comprised of a showy ring of colored bracts (modified leaf structures) surrounding the true creamy white inflorescence in the center. Its grassy leaves remain green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Star Rush is an herbaceous perennial with an upright spreading 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 should be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. It is a good choice for attracting bees and butterflies to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Star Rush is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Water Gardens
- Container Planting
- Bog Gardens



Star Rush flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Star Rush
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Star Rush will grow to be about 24 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 24 inches. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. It grows at a fast 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 prefers to grow in moist to wet soil, and will even tolerate some 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 species is native to parts of North America. It can be propagated by division.

Star Rush is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.