# Mat Rush

***Lomandra longifolia***



*Mat Rush*
*Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder*

Height: 5 feet

Spread: 4 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 8

Other Names: Spiny Headed Mat Rush, Basket Grass

**Description:**

Fine, strappy foliage sways gently in the wind for a stunning effect; subtle flowers are honey scented; adaptable to dry sites as well as moist; great for containers or as a groundcover

**Ornamental Features**

Mat Rush is primarily valued in the landscape or garden for its cascading habit of growth. It features subtle spikes of lightly-scented yellow flowers rising above the foliage from late spring to early summer. Its attractive grassy leaves remain emerald green in color throughout the year.



*Mat Rush flowers*
*Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder*

**Landscape Attributes**

Mat Rush is an herbaceous evergreen perennial grass with a shapely form and gracefully arching stems. 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 is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Mat Rush is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover
- Container Planting

**Planting & Growing**

Mat Rush will grow to be about 4 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 4 feet. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. It grows at a medium 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 is very adaptable to both dry and moist growing conditions, but will not tolerate any standing water. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for a low-water garden or xeriscape application. It is not particular as to soil type or pH, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division.

Mat Rush is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its height, it is often used 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.