Variegated Broadleaf Sedge

Carex siderosticha 'Variegata'



Variegated Broadleaf Sedge
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 8 inches

Spread: 24 inches

Sunlight: ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: 4

Other Names: Broad-Leaved Sedge

Description:

A wonderful low maintenance variety that produces strap-like foliage, emerging crimson and maturing to bright green with creamy-white margins; slow-spreading, upright habit; an excellent choice for borders, beds and patio containers



Variegated Broadleaf Sedge foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

The Variegated Broadleaf Sedge is primarily valued in the garden for its cascading habit of growth. Its attractive grassy leaves emerge crimson in spring, turning chartreuse in color with showy white variegation throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

The Variegated Broadleaf Sedge is a dense herbaceous perennial grass with a shapely form and gracefully arching stems. 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 is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Suckering

The Variegated Broadleaf Sedge is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

The Variegated Broadleaf Sedge will grow to be about 8 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 24 inches. 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 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 partial shade to full shade. Keep it well away from hot, dry locations that receive direct afternoon sun or which get reflected sunlight, such as against the south side of a white wall. It is quite adaptable, prefering to grow in average to wet conditions, 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 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.

The Variegated Broadleaf Sedge 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 canvas of 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.