Autumn Sedge

Carex dipsacea



Autumn Sedge foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 30 inches

Spread: 24 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 6

Description:

An interesting, cool season evergreen grass, presenting an attractive mix of brown, tan, and green foliage that turns yellow to orange in fall; black seed heads are also showy; great in a moist border in part shade or sun, does not like to dry out

Ornamental Features

Autumn Sedge is primarily grown for its highly ornamental fruit. The black seed heads are carried on showy plumes displayed in abundance in early fall. Its attractive grassy leaves are green in color with hints of coppery-bronze. The foliage often turns orange and yellow in fall.

Landscape Attributes

Autumn Sedge 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.

Autumn Sedge is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

Autumn Sedge will grow to be about 30 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 medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 7 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 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 highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This species is not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division.

Autumn Sedge is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. It can be used either as 'filler' or as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, depending on the height and form of the other plants used in the container planting. 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.