Monkeyshine Monkey Grass

Ophiopogon japonicus 'Monkeyshine'



Monkeyshine Monkey Grass
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 10 inches

Spread: 12 inches

Spacing: 10 inches

Sunlight: ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: 7

Other Names: Monkeygrass, Mondo Grass

Description:

Mounds of narrow, grass-like foliage is green with gold variegation; tends to be more gold in brighter light; flowers are not showy, but berries are interesting; striking when massed along borders; not actually a grass but more closely related to lilies

Ornamental Features

Monkeyshine Monkey Grass' attractive grassy leaves remain dark green in color with showy gold variegation and tinges of chartreuse throughout the year on a plant with a mounded habit of growth. It produces silvery blue berries from early to mid fall.

Landscape Attributes

Monkeyshine Monkey Grass is a dense herbaceous evergreen perennial grass with a mounded form. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

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.

Monkeyshine Monkey Grass is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Monkeyshine Monkey Grass will grow to be about 10 inches tall at maturity, 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 slow 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 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 does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. This plant should not require much in the way of fertilizing once established, although it may appreciate a shot of general-purpose fertilizer from time to time early in the growing season. 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.

Monkeyshine Monkey Grass 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.