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Variegated Pond Rush

Schoenoplectus lacustris 'Albescens'

Height: 4 feet

Spread: 4 feet

Sunlight: 

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: Variegated Bullrush, syn. *Scirpus lacustris*

Description:

A perennial, heavily rhizomatous wetland plant found in ponds and marshes, usually in standing water no deeper than six feet; an excellent water feature accent; evergreen in warmer climates

Ornamental Features

Variegated Pond Rush has masses of beautiful clusters of tan flowers at the ends of the stems in late spring, which are most effective when planted in groupings. Its grassy leaves remain green in color with prominent creamy white stripes and tinges of tan throughout the year. The green stems can be quite attractive.

Landscape Attributes

Variegated Pond Rush is an herbaceous annual with an upright spreading habit of growth. 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

Variegated Pond Rush is ideally suited for growing in a pond, water garden or patio water container, and is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Water Gardens
- Container Planting
- Bog Gardens



Variegated Pond Rush foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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Planting & Growing

Variegated Pond 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 water, not requiring facer plants in front. Although it's not a true annual, this fast-growing plant can be expected to behave as an annual in our climate if left outdoors over the winter, usually needing replacement the following year. As such, gardeners should take into consideration that it will perform differently than it would in its native habitat.

This plant should only be grown in full sunlight. As an aquatic plant, it requires a suitable water garden environment and will benefit from special planting and ongoing care practices; consult one of our in-store experts for further details and instructions. It is not particular as to soil type or pH, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This is a selection of a native North American species. It can be propagated by multiplication of the underground bulbs; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Variegated Pond Rush is a fine choice for the water 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 grown in outdoor pots and containers, aquatic plants like this one will require a special growing environment that meets their requirement for consistent moisture.