

Botanical Name: Phormium tenax 'Jack Spratt'

Common Name: Jack Spratt Flax Family: Asphodelaceae

Type of Plant: Monocot-perennial Character: Evergreen

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape Clumping, grass-like plant with red-brown, strappy leaves. One of the smallest of the Phormium genus

Height: 1-2' Spread: 1-2' (3') Growth Rate: Fast

Environment:

Exposure Full sun or partial shade

Soil Any well-draining soil

Hardiness Sunset Zones 2b-24

Morphology:

Leaves 1/2" wide, twisting, reddish brown strap-like leaves

Flowers Tall, open-branched spike with small tubular burgundy flowers

Fruit Elongated dry capsule with many hard, flat black seeds

Propagation: Root division and seed; seeds of hybrids may not retain characteristics of parents

Usage: Low-growing accent, small size makes it very useful for smaller residential gardens; for dark color; in masses or informal border, contrast for broader or lighter foliage

Landscape Care:

Watering Moderately low water required, will not withstand total drought

Fertilizing None

Pruning Cut to 4-6" above ground at beginning of growing season

Pests/Diseases Mealy bugs, slugs, root rot with poor drainage

Other Take care not to cover crown with mulch

Origin: New Zealand & Norfolk Island