

Botanical Name: Ophiopogon planiscapus 'Nigrescens'

Common Name: Black mondo grass

Type of Plant: monocot; perennial Character evergreen

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape small mound of slender grasslike leaves; forms a fine-textured tuft of dark green foliage

Height to 4" Spread to 4" Growth Rate very slow

Environment:

Exposure outdoor partial shade to full shade; full sun near coast

Soil well drained soil preferred; tolerates most any soil

Hardiness hardy (zones 5-10, 12-24)

Morphology:

Leaves grasslike, very thin, to 4" long arising from a small basal stem, nearly black; plant has a very small stature compared to the species

Flowers inconspicuous--lilac pink flowers on short spikes--usually spikes are obscured by the foliage

Fruit tiny black berry -- 1/8"

Propagation: division of clump - watch for stems that revert to species

Usage: tiny plant for Oriental landscapes, rock gardens and other small scale landscapes; can be closely planted to create a groundcover, or can be planted between stepping stones

Landscape Care:

Watering prefers regular watering; looks poor in drought conditions

Fertilizing balanced in spring

Pruning head back old foliage if needed -- can be sheared

Pests/Diseases snails/slugs, salt burn where drainage is poor

Special Conditions

Origin: Japan Family: Liliaceae