Liriope

Liriope - sometimes called lilyturf, is one of our most popular evergreen ground covers. It multiplies rapidly and requires very little care. It grows well throughout the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast Regions.

There are two major species grown in our area:

Big blue lilyturf (Liriope muscari)

Creeping lilyturf (L. spicata).

These two evergreen lilyturf species have slightly different growth habits, but both are favorite landscaping plants. Both plants form mounds of grass like foliage. Usually the foliage is dark green, but in some varieties it is variegated. There are many cultivars available. They differ in leaf color, size and flower color.

Height & Spread - Most Liriope grow to a height between 10 and 18 inches. Liriope muscari generally grows in a clump form and will spread to about 12 to 18 inches wide. Liriope spicata spreads rapidly by underground stems and will cover a wide area. Because of its rapid spread, L. spicata is not suitable for an edging but is excellent for groundcover.

Ornamental Features - Lilyturf forms a dense evergreen groundcover with a grass like appearance. It blooms in July to August with lavender, purple or white flower spikes. Although the flowers are individually small, they are very showy, since each plant has many spikes of blooms. Clusters of bluish black berry-like fruit follow the flowers.

Landscape use and care - Liriope can be used as a groundcover under trees and shrubs and as a massed planting on slopes and banks. Liriope muscari and its cultivars can also be used as low edging plants along paved areas or in front of foundation plantings. Liriope is remarkably tough. It will grow in deep shade or full sun, sand or clay. It can endure heat, drought and salt spray, but will not take "wet feet"; it requires moist, well-drained soil. Flowers are produced most freely in a sunny location. Space the plants about 12 – 18" apart when planting. Cut back old leaves before new growth emerges (late winter) for a healthy look throughout the growing season.