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Gray's Sedge

Carex grayi

Height: 3 feet

Spread: 24 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: 4

Other Names: Morning Star Sedge, Gray Sedge

Description:

Unusual star-shaped seedpods can be used in floral arrangements and add winter value; features attractive fresh green, leathery, grassy foliage, great in a moist border in shade or sun

Ornamental Features

Gray's Sedge is primarily valued in the garden for its ornamental upright and spreading habit of growth. Its grassy leaves are emerald green in color. The foliage often turns brown in fall.

Landscape Attributes

Gray's Sedge is an herbaceous evergreen perennial grass 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 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.

Gray's Sedge is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens
- Container Planting



Gray's Sedge flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Gray's Sedge in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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Planting & Growing

Gray's Sedge will grow to be about 3 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 24 inches. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. It grows at a medium 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 performs well in both full sun and full shade. It prefers to grow in moist to wet soil, and will even tolerate some standing water. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is native to parts of North America. It can be propagated by division.

Gray's Sedge is a fine choice for the 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 growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.



Gray's Sedge
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder