Fiber Optic Grass

Isolepis cernua



Fiber Optic Grass
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 12 inches

Spread: 18 inches

Spacing: 15 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 8b

Other Names: Live Wire Grass

Description:

This interesting plant lookes like a rush but it is a sedge, a beautiful mounded form with tiny silver flowers on the end resembling fiber optics, great for the perpetually wet or boggy area, it provides an interesting fine texture

Ornamental Features

Fiber Optic Grass is covered in stunning silver pea-like flowers at the ends of the stems from early summer to mid fall. Its tiny threadlike leaves emerge light green in spring, turning green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Fiber Optic Grass is an herbaceous perennial grass with a shapely form and gracefully arching stems. It brings an extremely fine and delicate texture to the garden composition and should be used to full effect.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and should be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Fiber Optic Grass is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting
- Bog Gardens

Planting & Growing

Fiber Optic Grass will grow to be about 12 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 18 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 15 inches apart. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 4 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!

This plant does best in full sun to partial 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 not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division.

Fiber Optic Grass is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. It is often used as a 'filler' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, providing a mass of flowers against which the thriller plants stand out. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden. Be aware that in our climate, this plant may be too tender to survive the winter if left outdoors in a container. Contact our experts for more information on how to protect it over the winter months.