Palm Sedge

Carex muskingumensis

Palm Sedge
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 16 inches

Spread: 24 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: 3b

Description:

Looking like small feathery palms, this variety features bright green foliage on dense mounded plants; foliage matures to coppery-bronze in the fall; a wonderful addition to water gardens, garden beds and borders or patio containers

Ornamental Features

Palm Sedge is primarily valued in the garden for its cascading habit of growth. Its attractive grassy leaves are chartreuse in color. The foliage often turns coppery-bronze in fall.

Landscape Attributes

Palm Sedge 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 is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Palm Sedge is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

Palm Sedge will grow to be about 16 inches 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 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 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. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in both summer and winter to conserve soil moisture and protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This species is not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division.

Palm Sedge 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 canvas of foliage 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.