FAMILY TREE NURSERY

Variegated Basket Grass

Oplismenus hirtellus 'Variegatus'



Variegated Basket Grass foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 6 inches

Spread: 12 inches

Spacing: 8 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Description:

This grass variety is popular as a container or basket plant; beautiful tri-colored leaves create a stunning mat in shady areas, or cascade beautifully from hanging baskets; water regularly; can be invasive in warm climates

Ornamental Features

Variegated Basket Grass' attractive narrow leaves remain olive green in color with showy white variegation and tinges of pink throughout the year on a plant with a spreading habit of growth.

Landscape Attributes

Variegated Basket Grass is an herbaceous annual with a ground-hugging 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 plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and should be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Spreading

Variegated Basket Grass is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting
- Hanging Baskets

8424 Farley St.
Overland Park, KS 66212
913.642.6503

7036 Nieman
Shawnee, KS 66203
913.631.6121

830 W Liberty Dr.
Liberty, MO 64068
816.781.0001

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Planting & Growing

Variegated Basket Grass will grow to be only 6 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 12 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 8 inches apart. Its foliage tends to remain low and dense right to the ground. Although it's not a true annual, this fast-growing plant can be expected to behave as an annual in our climate if left outdoors over the winter, usually needing replacement the following year. As such, gardeners should take into consideration that it will perform differently than it would in its native habitat.

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America. It can be propagated by cuttings; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Variegated Basket Grass is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor containers and hanging baskets. Because of its spreading habit of growth, it is ideally suited for use as a 'spiller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the edges where it can spill gracefully over the pot. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.

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