

## ENVIRONMENTAL HORTICULTURE

Environmental Horticulture #EH435



### ACORUS

#### PRODUCTION AND CONSUMER CARE

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#### INTRODUCTION

- Common name: Sweet Flag
- Scientific name: *Acorus gramineus*
- Native to North America and eastern Asia
- Wetland perennial with semi-evergreen grass-like foliage
- Leaves are narrow, flat, and about 0.5'' wide by 6-14'' tall
- Small yellow flowers are produced in midsummer on hollow stems
- Used medicinally by Native Americans
- Hardy in zones 6-9

#### GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

- Grows well in full sun or partial shade

- Requires very moist media; will grow in standing water
- Leaf tips turn brown if media dries for a brief period
- Only plants grown in water will produce flowers

#### PROPAGATION

- Propagate by dividing rhizomes in the spring
- Establish new divisions in a pot before planting

#### DISORDERS

- No serious pest or disease problems

#### CONSUMER CARE

- Often used along the edge of a pond or water garden

- Spreads by rhizomes and will produce an even ground cover over time
- Releases a cinnamon-like fragrance when walked upon
- Roots have been used as a condiment in eastern Asia for centuries

#### **CULTIVARS AND SPECIES**

- *Acorus gramineus*
  - 'Ogon': arching foliage with cream and chartreuse stripes

- 'Variegatus': green and white striped leaves
- 'Licorice': foliage that smells like anise
- 'Minimus': tiny cultivar suitable for aquaria and small pots

#### **References**

- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acorales>
- [http://www.floridata.com/ref/A/acor\\_gra.cfm](http://www.floridata.com/ref/A/acor_gra.cfm)