

ENVIRONMENTAL HORTICULTURE

Environmental Horticulture #EH437



CAREX

PRODUCTION AND CONSUMER CARE

Thomas M. Blessington, David L. Clement, and Kevin G. Williams
Central Maryland Research and Education Center
University of Maryland

INTRODUCTION

- Common name: Sedge
- Scientific name: *Carex sp.*
- Native to marshy areas around the globe
- Evergreen or semi-evergreen clump forming perennial
- Grass-like leaves grow in a dense tussock 10-20'' high
- Leaves arch upward and out, forming a weeping habit
- Coloration and length of leaves depends on the species and cultivar
- Short spikes of tiny flowers appear in summer
- Hardy in zones 5-9
- Over 1500 species in genus *Carex*

GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

- Prefers full sun or light shade
- Can tolerate full shade in warmer climates
- Prefers moist, well-drained soil
- Plants spread slowly through underground rhizomes

PROPAGATION

- Propagate by division of rhizomes

DISORDERS

- No serious disease or insect problems

CONSUMER CARE

- Often used as a formal border
- Plants grown in masses can be used as ground cover
- Performs well in hanging baskets

- Most species tolerate wet conditions and can be used along the edge of a pond or stream

CULTIVARS AND SPECIES

- *Carex conica*
 - 'Snowline': white leaves with a thin center band of green
- *Carex dolichostachya*
 - 'Gold Fountains': slender lime-green leaves banded in gold
- *Carex flacca*

- 'Blue Zinger': wide, dark blue-green foliage
- *Carex morrowii*
 - 'Ice Dance': leaves have wide white margins
- *Carex oshimensis*
 - 'Evergold': creamy yellow leaves with deep green margins

References

- http://www.floridata.com/ref/C/care_osh.cfm
- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carex>