

ENVIRONMENTAL HORTICULTURE

Environmental Horticulture #EH415



LIRIOPE

PRODUCTION AND CONSUMER CARE

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INTRODUCTION

- Common name: Blue Lily Turf
- Scientific name: *Liriope muscari*
- Native to East Asia
- Perennial, evergreen groundcover with grass-like foliage
- Foliage forms clumps up to 2' tall and 10-15'' wide
- Flowers bloom in clusters on spikes 6-8'' long
- Flowers can be blue, violet, or white and bloom in late August or September
- Hardy to zone 6

GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

- Tolerates full sun or shade
- Prefers moist, slightly acidic media

- Should receive one inch of water per week
- Feed once with an all purpose granular fertilizer in spring

PROPAGATION

- Propagated by division early in spring
- Divide foliage and root mass into two clumps
- Set plants at least 12'' apart
- Blue-black berries will germinate easily, but division is quicker and easier

DISORDERS

- Leaf and crown rot (*Phytophthora palmivora*)

- Leaves turn bright yellow and eventually brown and die
- Avoid crowding and over-watering
- Remove and destroy infected plants
- Anthracnose (*Colletotrichum sp.*)
 - Black, sunken lesions appear on leaves and stems
 - Reduce humidity and improve air circulation
 - Remove infected plants
- Slugs and snails
 - Chew ragged sections out of leaves
 - Handpick and remove
 - Use a slug trap
- Scale insects
 - Form blister-like outgrowths on stems and leaves
 - Leaves drop and plant growth is stunted
 - Spray heavily infested plants with a mixture of alcohol and insecticidal soap

CONSUMER CARE

- Often used to outline planting beds

- Excellent choice for ground cover in shady areas
- Can control erosion on steep slopes due to its dense root mass
- Flower spikes are often used in cut flower arrangements

CULTIVARS AND SPECIES

- *Liriope muscari*
 - ‘Big Blue’: lilac flower spikes with dark green foliage
 - ‘Variegata’: lavender flowers with green and cream leaves

References

- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liriope_\(genus\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liriope_(genus))
- <http://www.yardener.com/Liriope.html>
- http://www.floridata.com/ref/L/liri_mus.cfm

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