

## Liriope species

Liriope muscari, commonly known as Turf Lily is an attractive grass-like groundcover that grows from 50 to 60cm in height. It is a native of the shady forest floors of Eastern Asia including regions in China, Taiwan and Japan.

The plant is evergreen with attractive low, grassy foliage, at maturity they form a continuous border or carpet that resembles a plot of shaggy lawn grass.

In the summer and the bluish purple flower stems are produced in profusion. These are followed by masses of dark purple to black berries.

Liriope muscari should be distinguished from Giant liriope (*Liriope gigantea*) which is a related species that grows in large, rush-like clumps to 2m tall.

Turf lily is a useful and adaptive plant, it can grow as a long-living low maintenance ground cover or border even as a houseplant or container plant.

It is best suited to medium shade but flourishes in full sun to deep shade, it is frost hardy and drought resistant.

It can be left undisturbed for many years to form low-maintenance ground cover in beds of its own, or in light shade beneath trees or shrubs in a border. Alternatively, grow in clumps in a flower border, and divide occasionally to keep the plants down to an acceptable size.

Good as a houseplant, container plant, perennial border, border or pathway edging, mass plantings in the shade of large trees - lovely when in bloom or in seed!

Grows best in medium shade but also grows from full sun to deep shade. The plant is very frost hardy as well as drought tolerant.

### Propagation

Propagation is straightforward and the seeds require no pre-treatment. Seeds can be fully cleaned of flesh before sowing or the fleshy fruit can be mashed, some of the excess flesh removed and the partly cleaned seed sown.

Sow seed to the depth equal to the width of the seed in a good quality seed raising mix. Keep the growing medium moist but not damp. We prefer to sow in either seedling trays or large plastic pots. Allow some spacing between the seeds, a few centimeters between each and be prepared to pot on at several centimeters.

Plant out in a prepared area in either full sun or light shade. Water in well and water regularly. Seedlings can be planted in rows, as borders or as a clumping bed.