Town & Country gardens

Soft Rush

Juncus inflexus



Soft Rush
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 3 feet

Spread: 12 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4

Description:

Grown for its stiff upright blue-green foliage, this variety is well suited to annual bedding and mixed containers; can be grown as a pond plant but is also quite drought tolerant when grown in the ground

Ornamental Features

Soft Rush is primarily valued in the garden for its ornamental upright and spreading habit of growth. Its attractive grassy leaves emerge lime green in spring, turning bluish-green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Soft Rush is a dense herbaceous perennial grass with an upright spreading habit of growth. It brings an extremely fine and delicate texture to the garden composition and should be used to full effect.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and is best cut back to the ground in late winter before active growth resumes. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Soft Rush is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting
- Bog Gardens

Planting & Growing

Soft Rush will grow to be about 3 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 12 inches. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 8 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It is quite adaptable, prefering to grow in average to wet conditions, and will even tolerate some standing water. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This species is native to parts of North America.

Soft Rush is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden. Be aware that in our climate, most plants cannot be expected to survive the winter if left in containers outdoors, and this plant is no exception. Contact our experts for more information on how to protect it over the winter months.