

# *Liriope muscari* 'Evergreen Giant' Evergreen Giant Lilyturf<sup>1</sup>

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## Introduction

This large, clumping grass-like perennial makes an attractive, dark green groundcover and is accented with spikes of lilac purple blooms during summer months. Though not actually spreading by underground stems, an individual plant after several years can reach 24 inches in width by suckering at the base and will quickly cover an open area. Plant on 18inch centers for the best groundcover effect. Evergreen giant liriope can also be used as an edging along walks and other areas. Plant liriope to create a fine-textured, gentle ground cover which will sustain itself for many years. Large areas planted in liriope lend a soothing effect to any landscape.



Figure 1. Full Form- *Liriope muscari* 'Evergreen Giant': Evergreen Giant Lilyturf

Credits: Edward F. Gilman, UF/IFAS

## General Information

**Scientific name:** *Liriope muscari* 'Evergreen Giant'

**Pronunciation:** luh-RYE-oh-pee mus-KAR-ree

**Common name(s):** 'Evergreen Giant' lilyturf, 'Evergreen Giant' liriope

**Family:** *Liliaceae*

**Plant type:** perennial; herbaceous; ornamental grass

**USDA hardiness zones:** 6 through 10 (Figure 2)

**Planting month for zone 7:** year round

**Planting month for zone 8:** year round

**Planting month for zone 9:** year round

**Planting month for zone 10:** year round

**Origin:** not native to North America

**Invasive potential:** not known to be invasive

**Uses:** mass planting; edging; naturalizing; small parking lot islands (< 100 square feet in size); medium-sized parking

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2. Edward F. Gilman, professor emeritus; Ryan W. Klein, assistant professor, arboriculture; and Gail Hansen, professor, sustainable landscape design; Department of Environmental Horticulture, UF/IFAS Extension, Gainesville, FL 32611.

lot islands (100-200 square feet in size); large parking lot islands (> 200 square feet in size)

**Availability:** generally available in many areas within its hardiness range



Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

## Description

**Height:** 1 to 2 feet

**Spread:** 1 to 2 feet

**Plant habit:** upright

**Plant density:** moderate

**Growth rate:** moderate

**Texture:** fine

## Foliage

**Leaf arrangement:** most emerge from the soil, usually without a stem

**Leaf type:** simple

**Leaf margin:** entire

**Leaf shape:** linear

**Leaf venation:** parallel

**Leaf type and persistence:** evergreen

**Leaf blade length:** 12 to 18 inches

**Leaf color:** green

**Fall color:** no fall color change

**Fall characteristic:** not showy

## Flower

**Flower color:** lilac; purple

**Flower characteristic:** summer flowering

## Fruit

**Fruit shape:** round

**Fruit length:** less than 0.5 inch

**Fruit cover:** fleshy

**Fruit color:** black

**Fruit characteristic:** showy

## Trunk and Branches

**Trunk/bark/branches:** not applicable

**Current year stem/twig color:** not applicable

**Current year stem/twig thickness:** not applicable

## Culture

**Light requirement:** plant grows in part shade/part sun; plant grows in the shade

**Soil tolerances:** alkaline; clay; sand; acidic; loam

**Drought tolerance:** moderate

**Soil salt tolerances:** unknown

**Plant spacing:** 18 to 24 inches

## Other

**Roots:** not applicable

**Winter interest:** no special winter interest

**Outstanding plant:** not particularly outstanding

**Pest resistance:** no serious pests are normally seen on the plant

## Use and Management

Evergreen giant liriopé enjoys more sun than other liriopes. Growth in full shade is a bit thin but acceptable. Growth is best on rich, moist, well-drained soils but the plant will accept much less hospitable conditions in most regions. In the hottest areas of the south, however, full sun plants tend to brown at the tips and die from heat stress. Plants should be fertilized once or twice a year but require little care otherwise.

Propagation is by division of the clumps or by seed.

## Pests and Diseases

No diseases are of major concern.