

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

Edward F. Gilman, Ryan W. Klein, and Gail Hansen<sup>2</sup>

#### 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

- 1. This document is FPS-348, one of a series of the Department of Environmental Horticulture, UF/IFAS Extension. Original publication date October 1999. Revised October 2023. Visit the EDIS website at https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu for the currently supported version of this publication.
- 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.

The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) is an Equal Opportunity Institution authorized to provide research, educational information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function with non-discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations. For more information on obtaining other UF/IFAS Extension publications, contact your county's UF/IFAS Extension office.

U.S. Department of Agriculture, UF/IFAS Extension Service, University of Florida, IFAS, Florida A & M University Cooperative Extension Program, and Boards of County Commissioners Cooperating. Andra Johnson, dean for UF/IFAS Extension.

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

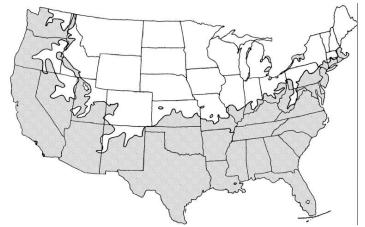


Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

## **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 liriope 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.