

Mondo Grass

Ophiopogon japonicus

Mondo Grass has many attributes which continue to make it a popular groundcover. The dark green, 6 to 8 inch tall, grass-like mounds are comprised of amazingly sturdy plants tolerating deep shade to full sun (except in the Deep South), drought or periods of standing water, an ability to tolerate some foot traffic and a seeming immunity to most insect pests or diseases. Often used as an edging or border grass, Mondo Grass is quite useful as a groundcover. As an alternative to lawn grasses Mondo Grass can fill in problem areas of exposed tree roots or sloping hillsides that are difficult to mow and are subject to soil erosion.

Type: perennial ornamental grass

USDA hardiness zones: 7 through 11

Uses: border; mass planting; edging; ground cover; erosion control

Origin: not native to North America

Height: 4 to 8 inches

Spread: depends on supporting structure

Plant spacing: 6 to 12 inches

Light requirement: shade

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

Drought tolerance: moderate

Soil salt tolerances: unknown

Invasive potential: aggressive, spreading plant

Pest resistance: no pests or diseases are of major concern

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Photo: UF/ IFAS