

Zebra Rush



Zebra Rush

Schoenoplectus lacustris 'Zebrinus'

Height: 4 feet

Spread: 4 feet

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: Zebra Bullrush, syn. *S. tabernaemontani*

Description:

A perennial, heavily rhizomatous wetland plant found in ponds and marshes; blue green foliage has interesting white bands, to great visual effect; an excellent water feature accent

Ornamental Features

Zebra Rush's grassy leaves remain bluish-green in colour with showy white variegation throughout the season on a plant with an upright spreading habit of growth. The green stems can be quite attractive.

Landscape Attributes

Zebra Rush is an herbaceous annual with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its medium texture blends into the garden, but can always be balanced by a couple of finer or coarser plants for an effective composition.

This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Suckering

Zebra Rush is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Water Gardens
- Container Planting
- Bog Gardens

Planting & Growing

Zebra Rush will grow to be about 4 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 4 feet. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. Although it's not a true annual, this fast-growing plant can be expected to behave as an annual in our climate if left outdoors over the winter, usually needing replacement the following year. As such, gardeners should take into consideration that it will perform differently than it would in its native habitat.



Zebra Rush foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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This plant should only be grown in full sunlight. It prefers to grow in moist to wet soil, and will even tolerate some standing water. It is not particular as to soil type or pH, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This is a selection of a native North American species. It can be propagated by multiplication of the underground bulbs; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Zebra 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. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.