

Lakeshore Garden Centres

4102 - 11th St. West
P.O. Box 2A RR3
Saskatoon, SK, S7K 3J6
phone: 306-382-2077

info@lakeshoregardencentre.com
www.lakeshoregardencentre.com

False Esparto Grass



False Esparto Grass

Lygeum spartum

Height: 3 feet

Spread: 5 feet

Sunlight: 

Hardiness Zone: 8a

Other Names: Albardin, Alvarde, Lygeum spartum

Description:

This drought and salt tolerant grass is a perfect accent or groundcover for sunny, dry areas and sandy, coastal applications; unusual, feathery flowers sway in the breeze in spring and summer; great for rock gardens or containers

Ornamental Features

False Esparto Grass features unusual tan flowers with creamy white overtones rising above the foliage from mid spring to mid summer. Its attractive grassy leaves emerge green in spring, turning chartreuse in colour with showy yellow variegation the rest of the year.

Landscape Attributes

False Esparto Grass is an herbaceous evergreen perennial grass with a ground-hugging 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 cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. It is a good choice for attracting bees and butterflies to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

False Esparto Grass is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover
- Container Planting



False Esparto Grass
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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Planting & Growing

False Esparto Grass will grow to be about 3 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 5 feet. 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 10 years. As an evergreen perennial, this plant will typically keep its form and foliage year-round.

This plant should only be grown in full sunlight. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist growing conditions, but will not tolerate any standing water. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in poor soils, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division.

False Esparto Grass is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its spreading habit of growth, it is ideally suited for use as a 'spiller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the edges where it can spill gracefully over the pot. 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. 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.

This plant is not reliably hardy in our region, and certain restrictions may apply; contact the store for more information.