Liriope muscari ‘Variegata’

Edward F. Gilman

**Introduction**

Variegated leaves and attractive, violet-blue flowers give this plant its charm (Fig. 1). Variegated Lilyturf is a 6- to 12-inch-tall herbaceous perennial that is useful in the landscape as a ground cover and accent plant. This plant spreads slowly by rhizomes and forms thick tubers that look like small potatoes. The 8- to 20-inch-long, grass-like leaves have a yellow stripe on their outer margin and arise from a central crown. The small, purple flowers of Variegated Lilyturf occur in terminal racemes that sit atop an 8-to 10-inch tall, violet-brown scape. These flowers appear in the summer and are followed by blue-black berrylike fruits. Flowers are mostly inconspicuous due to the brightly colored foliage.

**General Information**

Scientific name: *Liriope muscari* ‘Variegata’

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

Common name(s): Variegated Lilyturf, Variegated Liriope, Variegated Border Grass

Family: Liliaceae

Plant type: perennial; herbaceous; ornamental grass

USDA hardiness zones: 6 through 10 (Fig. 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

Uses: mass planting; edging; naturalizing

Availability: generally available in many areas within its hardiness range

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1. This document is Fact Sheet FPS-349, one of a series of the Environmental Horticulture Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Publication date: October, 1999 Please visit the EDIS Web site at http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu.

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Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

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: variegated  
Fall color: no fall color change  
Fall characteristic: not showy

Flower

Flower color: purple  
Flower characteristic: summer flowering

Fruit

Fruit shape: round  
Fruit length: less than .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: 12 to 18 inches
Other

**Roots:** not applicable
**Winter interest:** no special winter interest
**Outstanding plant:** not particularly outstanding
**Invasive potential:** not known to be invasive
**Pest resistance:** no serious pests are normally seen on the plant

## Use and Management

Variegated Lilyturf is a great plant for bordering a sidewalk or as an edging for a landscape bed. It will grow well underneath trees or around shrubs. However, it will not tolerate foot traffic.

Variegated Liriope will grow in a sunny location, but prefers one that has partial shade or full shade. It prefers well-drained soils and is moderately tolerant of drought and salt spray. This plant does have a negative reaction to high temperatures and can melt out in warm weather.

Variegated Lilyturf may be propagated by division of the clumps or tubers. It will also grow from seed if the pulp is removed.

## Pests and Diseases

No pests or diseases are of major concern. Grasshoppers may occasionally damage the foliage.