The Mustard Seed
Landscaping & Garden Centers

Mare's Tail

Hippuris vulgaris

Height: 24 inches

Spread: 3 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4a

Other Names: Mares Tail

Description:

Stands of this aquatic variety resemble a spruce forest in miniature; fine, narrow leaves in whorls, along a central stem; a great water or pondside plant for texture; can never dry out



Mare's Tail foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Mare's Tail's attractive narrow leaves remain bluish-green in color throughout the season on a plant with an upright spreading habit of growth.

Landscape Attributes

Mare's Tail is an herbaceous perennial with an upright spreading habit of growth. It brings an extremely fine and delicate texture to the garden composition and should be used to full effect.

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;

- Spreading

Mare's Tail is ideally suited for growing in a pond, water garden or patio water container, and is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Water Gardens
- Container Planting
- Bog Gardens



Mare's Tail
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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...the birds of the air can perch in its shade. Mark 4:30-32

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Planting & Growing

Mare's Tail will grow to be about 24 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 3 feet. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. As an aquatic plant, it requires a suitable water garden environment and will benefit from special planting and ongoing care practices; consult one of our in-store experts for further details and instructions. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This species is native to parts of North America. It can be propagated by division.

Mare's Tail is a fine choice for the water 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 grown in outdoor pots and containers, aquatic plants like this one will require a special growing environment that meets their requirement for consistent moisture. 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.