The Mustard Seed
Landscaping & Garden Centers

Spiralis Corkscrew Rush

Juncus effusus 'Spiralis'



Spiralis Corkscrew Rush foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 18 inches

Spread: 18 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4b

Description:

A superb plant with very curious twisted, spiraling foliage, well suited to aquatic containers and boggy, poorly drained areas; best used in the foreground or in a container

Ornamental Features

Spiralis Corkscrew Rush is primarily valued in the garden for its ornamental upright and spreading habit of growth. It features subtle bracted brown frilly flowers at the ends of the stems from early summer to early fall. Its attractive twisted grassy leaves remain green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Spiralis Corkscrew Rush is an open herbaceous perennial grass with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and is best cut back to the ground in late winter before active growth resumes. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Spiralis Corkscrew Rush is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting
- Bog Gardens

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Planting & Growing

Spiralis Corkscrew Rush will grow to be about 18 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 18 inches. 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 8 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. It prefers to grow in moist to wet soil, and will even tolerate some standing water. It is not particular as to soil type, but has a definite preference for acidic soils, 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.

Spiralis Corkscrew Rush is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. It is often used as a 'filler' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, providing a mass of flowers and foliage against which the larger thriller plants stand out. 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.