Maiden Grass, Yaku Jima

Miscanthus sinensis 'Yaku Jima'

Plant Height: 3 feet

Flower Height: 4 feet

Spread: 3 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4b

Other Names: Porcupine Grass, Japanese Silver Grass

Description:

Needle-fine, grassy foliage gives lovely texture to this dwarf perennial; great for small spaces and containers; loved for its silky, delicate plumes that sway in the wind; can be left as an accent througout the winter

Ornamental Features

Maiden Grass, Yaku Jima features bold plumes of pink flowers with tan overtones rising above the foliage from late summer to late fall. The flowers are excellent for cutting. The harvest gold seed heads are carried on showy plumes displayed in abundance from mid fall to late winter. Its grassy leaves are green in color. As an added bonus, the foliage turns a gorgeous gold in the fall.

Landscape Attributes

Maiden Grass, Yaku Jima is an herbaceous perennial grass with a mounded form. 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. It is a good choice for attracting birds to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.



Maiden Grass, Yaku Jima
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Maiden Grass, Yaku Jima foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Maiden Grass, Yaku Jima is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Maiden Grass, Yaku Jima will grow to be about 3 feet tall at maturity extending to 4 feet tall with the flowers, with a spread of 3 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 20 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 does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. To help this plant achive its best flowering performance, periodically apply a flower-boosting fertilizer from early spring through into the active growing season. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Maiden Grass, Yaku Jima is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its height, it is often used 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.