Homestead Gardens Plant Finder

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Pennsylvania Sedge - New For 2026!

Carex pensylvanica

Height: 8 inches

Spread: 12 inches

Sunlight: ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: 3a

Other Names: Oak Sedge

Description:

This shade loving native sedge features soft, arching semi-evergreen foliage; excellent in rock gardens, containers, or as a groundcover; prefers part shade and dry to medium moisture; tough and adaptable

Ornamental Features

Pennsylvania Sedge is primarily valued in the garden for its cascading habit of growth. Its grassy leaves remain forest green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Pennsylvania Sedge is an herbaceous perennial grass with a shapely form and gracefully arching stems. 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 has no significant negative characteristics.

Pennsylvania Sedge is recommended for the following landscape applications;



Pennsylvania Sedge
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Pennsylvania Sedge
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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



Pennsylvania Sedge
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Pennsylvania Sedge will grow to be about 8 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 12 inches. Its foliage tends to remain low and dense right to the ground. It grows at a slow 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 partial shade to shade. It prefers to grow in average to dry locations, and dislikes excessive moisture. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in both summer and winter to conserve soil moisture and protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This species is native to parts of North America. It can be propagated by division.

Pennsylvania Sedge 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 the canvas against which the 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.