Homestead Gardens Plant Finder

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Appalachian Sedge - New For 2026!

Carex appalachica



Appalachian Sedge
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 6 inches

Spread: 18 inches

Sunlight: ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: 3a

Description:

A weeping, perennial native sedge that forms graceful, mounded tufts of very fine textured, deep green, threadlike foliage; thrives in dry to mesic woods and does best with some shade; perfect for massing, slopes, or as a shade groundcover



Appalachian Sedge
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

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

Landscape Attributes

Appalachian 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.

Appalachian Sedge is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- Border Edging
- Groundcover
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Appalachian Sedge will grow to be only 6 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 18 inches. Its foliage tends to remain low and dense right to the ground. It grows at a medium 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 considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for a low-water garden or xeriscape application. This plant should not require much in the way of fertilizing once established, although it may appreciate a shot of general-purpose fertilizer from time to time early in the growing season. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is native to parts of North America. It can be propagated by division.

Appalachian 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 a canvas of foliage 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.