

# *Liriope muscari* ‘Variegata’ Variegated Lilyturf, Variegated Liriope<sup>1</sup>

Edward F. Gilman, Ryan W. Klein, and Gail Hansen<sup>2</sup>

## Introduction

Variegated leaves and attractive, violet-blue flowers give this plant its charm. Variegated lilyturf is a 6- to 12-inch tall, herbaceous perennial that is useful in the landscape as a ground cover and accent plant. This plant spreads slowly by rhizomes and forms thick tubers that look like small potatoes. The 8 to 20 inch long, grass-like leaves have yellow stripes on their outer margins and arise from a central crown. The small, purple flowers of variegated lilyturf occur in terminal racemes that sit atop an 8- to 10-inch tall, violet-brown scape. These flowers appear in the summer and are followed by blue-black berrylike fruits. Flowers are mostly inconspicuous due to the brightly colored foliage.



Figure 1. Full Form—*Liriope muscari* ‘Variegata’: Variegated lilyturf, variegated liriope.

Credits: Edward F. Gilman, UF/IFAS

## General Information

**Scientific name:** *Liriope muscari* ‘Variegata’

**Pronunciation:** luh-RYE-oh-pee mus-KAR-ree

**Common name(s):** variegated lilyturf, variegated liriope, variegated border grass

**Family:** *Liliaceae*

**Plant type:** perennial; herbaceous; ornamental grass

**USDA hardiness zones:** 6 through 10 (Figure 2)



Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

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**Planting month for zone 7:** year-round

**Planting month for zone 8:** year-round

**Planting month for zone 9:** year-round

**Planting month for zone 10:** year-round

**Origin:** not native to North America

**Invasive potential:** not known to be invasive

**Uses:** mass planting; edging; naturalizing

**Availability:** generally available in many areas within its hardiness range

## Description

**Height:** 1 to 1.5 feet

**Spread:** 1 to 2 feet

**Plant habit:** upright

**Plant density:** moderate

**Growth rate:** moderate

**Texture:** fine

## Foliage

**Leaf arrangement:** most emerge from the soil, usually without a stem

**Leaf type:** simple

**Leaf margin:** entire

**Leaf shape:** linear

**Leaf venation:** parallel

**Leaf type and persistence:** evergreen

**Leaf blade length:** 12 to 18 inches

**Leaf color:** variegated

**Fall color:** no fall color change

**Fall characteristic:** not showy

## Flower

**Flower color:** purple

**Flower characteristic:** summer flowering

## Fruit

**Fruit shape:** round

**Fruit length:** less than 0.5 inch

**Fruit cover:** fleshy

**Fruit color:** black

**Fruit characteristic:** showy

## Trunk and Branches

**Trunk/bark/branches:** not applicable

**Current year stem/twig color:** not applicable

**Current year stem/twig thickness:** not applicable

## Culture

**Light requirement:** plant grows in part shade/part sun; plant grows in the shade

**Soil tolerances:** alkaline; clay; sand; acidic; loam

**Drought tolerance:** moderate

**Soil salt tolerances:** unknown

**Plant spacing:** 12 to 18 inches

## Other

**Roots:** not applicable

**Winter interest:** no special winter interest

**Outstanding plant:** not particularly outstanding

**Pest resistance:** no serious pests are normally seen on the plant

## Use and Management

Variegated lilyturf is a great plant for bordering a sidewalk or as an edging for a landscape bed. It will grow well underneath trees or around shrubs. However, it will not tolerate foot traffic.

Variegated lilyturf will grow in a sunny location but prefers one that has partial shade or full shade. It prefers well-drained soils and is moderately tolerant of drought and salt spray. This plant does have a negative reaction to high temperatures and can melt out in warm weather.

Variegated lilyturf may be propagated by division of the clumps or tubers. It will also grow from seed if the pulp is removed.

## **Pests and Diseases**

No pests or diseases are of major concern. Grasshoppers may occasionally damage the foliage.