

## Ophiopogon - Growing Guide

### **Growing Ophiopogon Planiscapus 'Nigrescens'**

#### *Lilyturf*

This is an evergreen, clump forming, perennial in the garden which is much used and admired for its strap shaped curving black leaves. It is a rhizomatous plant and grows only to 6-8in in height with a spread of perhaps double this. While this is principally a low growing foliage groundcover plant for rockeries or the edges of a border it does have flowers! These are borne in upright racemes of purplish-white flowers followed by spherical fleshy blue-black fruits.

O. planiscapus 'Nigrescens' can be used effectively underneath a specimen plant in a pot or in larger planters to give colour variation. They look great in pots in the greenhouse or even in a window box.

These plants can be grown in full sun or partial shade but the leaf colouration may sometimes fade a bit to dark green in shade. Mulching in spring helps to feed them and they enjoy improved soils with the addition of loam. In the greenhouse a summer liquid fertiliser feed will encourage more growth and flowering.

The ripe seeds can be sown as soon as they are ripe in a container in the cold frame. Otherwise these plants can be gently divided in the spring as growth commences.



Ophiopogon planiscapus  
'Nigrescens'



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Ophiopogon planiscapus  
'Nigrescens' & Euphorbia  
pasturei

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