

LOW MAINTENANCE LANDSCAPE inc.

LIRIOPE LAWNS / GROUNDCOVER AREAS

Tired of mowing...or even trying to grow that water thirsty lawn underneath shade trees? To be successful, you will need up to daily watering in the summer and probably an irrigation system; not low maintenance at all! In our quest to be environmentally friendly and save water, we promote liriopce spicata lawns for full shade / part shade. Even under the most hostile conditions such as huge silver maple and pin oak trees, liriopce not only survives but thrives. Liriopce has no insect or disease problems, will survive droughts, short-term floods and cold winters. Liriopce has a very low water requirement and a deep root system that allows it to draw water from a large area. Liriopce thrives on only 1 deep watering per month in the summer to stay green. In the winter, it will stay green until zero degrees and be completely evergreen some winters. If the top growth dies back due to extreme cold, it will rapidly grow back in March or April. Water savings with liriopce is astounding; have you ever had a \$500 July water bill? Many of our customers with large irrigated lawns do. Over one million gallons of water can be saved on every turf acre every year by replacing a high water-use turfgrass, like bluegrass or fescue, with liriopce. We feel the conservation of water is a must for all of us and we should reduce our dependency on excess chemicals and weekly lawn mowing. Lawnmowing is also one of the worst sources of noise and air pollution. Liriopce can be mowed yearly in late winter/early spring or only once per month during the growing season. If un-mowed, it will reach a uniform height of 8-12". Monthly mowing encourages underground rhizome production and dense, compacted top growth of 3-4".

ADVANTAGES OF LIRIOPE SPICATA LAWNS OVER OTHER LAWNS

- Liriopce grows to form a dense groundcover / turf in medium to full shade. (also called "Lilyturf"). It has environmental and economic traits that cannot be disputed. A typical homeowner will save hundreds of dollars a year on lawn maintenance costs. Large turf-like installations can save thousands of dollars per year.
- Liriopce requires no mowing maintenance (monthly mowing is optional to achieve 4" height) Un-mowed, it will grow uniformly 8-10" and appear like a lawn from a distance.
- Fewer weed problems occur; the dense growth of liriopce grass smothers out existing weeds and prevents the germination of new seeds. Minimal lawn treatment program of only 3-5 visits is recommended for the first 1-2 years. (fescue & bluegrass lawns require 4-7 visits per year forever to be weed-free) This is truly a remarkable plant!
- Liriopce requires less water; and will survive and thrive with no supplemental irrigation. It can handle medium to dry conditions but no soggy areas (fescue and blue-grass have more wet-feet tolerance) If drainage is the problem, we can probably fix that too.
- Liriopce has at least some wildlife value while lawn grasses do not; if un-mowed, it has small flowers and attracts pollinators. Some leaf cover in winter is tolerated by liriopce.
- The soft texture and medium green color are great assets; evergreen to 0°F, survives -20.
- Liriopce grows in zones 5-9; tolerates cold in the winter and heat / humidity in the summer.
- NO problems! Insect, disease and thatch build-up problems rarely occur in liriopce lawns; no grub damage, no brown patch, no snow mold... no known problems if planted where recommended. This "lawn" will survive indefinitely and outlast our children!
- Liriopce is tolerant of a wide range of soil types but prefers clay/loam and will display best growth in fertile soils with average water but extremely drought tolerant in shaded areas!
- Liriopce can be divided by plugs to fill in damaged or new areas; can't be seeded.

"SO WHY DOESN'T EVERYONE USE LIRIOPE?"

- Liriope requires a higher upfront cost and more maintenance during the first year to get it established. Unfortunately, most people only consider the sticker shock of the initial cost. It takes 2-3 years for liriope to pay for itself before savings occur.
- Most landscape that also offer mowing do not promote liriope because they are in business to make money maintaining your lawn. Why would a lawn mowing company promote a lawn alternative that doesn't need much mowing? Why would an irrigation company promote a lawn that didn't need an irrigation system? With few "green industry" companies promoting it, the true benefits remain unknown to the consumer.
- Most "lawn mowing only" companies are not educated about liriope nor have the experience to successfully install, establish, and follow thru with initial weed control maintenance when establishing liriope from plugs. A weed pre-emergent plan is recommended until the liriope forms a solid cover (no to little dirt/mulch showing)
- Most "lawn treatment" companies don't have a formal program for liriope lawns because this concept is pretty new. Thus, they don't promote or advertise something they don't have experience with. However, any 4-6 times per year fertilizer and pre-emergents only program will work for liriope lawns (while this is optional, it recommended for first 1-2 years) Liriope will crowd out weeds within a year or two but looks best with weed control.

A FEW DRAWBACKS TO CONSIDER; LIRIOPE IS NOT FOR EVERYONE

- Liriope has a few limitations about where it will grow: it needs full to part shade, it will not grow in wet areas with poor drainage, and it needs a clay-based topsoil (no sand)
- Liriope is a vigorous spreading plant for tough, dry shade. It will dominate other plants in a garden bed, especially anything shorter than itself. While this is a good trait for smothering out weeds, it should not be mixed with other perennials. It is ok to allow it to grow under shrubs or taller perennials. Thoughtful placement and planning by a landscape designer is recommended. It's great for dry shade lawn areas where grass won't grow. We recommend a 12-24" wide mulch path to separate it and occasional herbicide spraying along the perimeter after desired spread has been achieved.
- If mowing on a regular basis, a 4" height is needed. Regular mowing should be started only after a 1-year establishment period of allowing it to grow taller. The mowed texture is a little on the coarse side and the cut foliage ends are beige upon close inspection.
- Liriope is not a true "grass" so 2-4-D cannot be used for post emergence broadleaf weed control. Pre-emergents can be used and are recommended for the first year or two.
- Liriope is evergreen but gets winter burn during cold winters and should at least be mowed once per year after such occurrences; it greens up later in the spring.
- Liriope will tolerate full sun but growth will take on more of a yellowish green color and need more water. Furthermore, weeds will be a problem in full sun areas if you are expecting zero maintenance. (regular mowing is not recommended in full sun areas)
- Liriope cannot tolerate constant foot traffic in a concentrated area like near a gate opening or off a patio landing. (But what grass can....Bermuda/Zoysya grass or well-watered tall fescue can tolerate this in full sun areas) In dry shade, we recommend a mulch path, stepping stones, pit fines or pea gravel. Anything is better than mud.

OVERALL, IF YOU HAVE DIFFICULT CONDITIONS UNDER LARGE SHADE TREES AND WANT A LOW MAINTENANCE / LOW WATER LAWN, LIRIOPE IS THE WAY TO GO! PLEASE CONTACT US FOR AN ESTIMATE TODAY!

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THIS LIRIOPE SPICATA LAWN IN LAWRENCE KANSAS IS MOWED ONCE PER YEAR AND RECEIVES VERY LITTLE EXTRA WATER. THE ULTRA DENSE GROWTH COMBINED WITH A MINIMAL LAWN TREATMENT PLAN KEEPS IT WEED-FREE AND VERY LOW MAINTENANCE.



UN-MOWED LIRIOPE; NO IRRIGATION



LIRIOPE IS MOSTLY EVERGREEN



LIRIOPE CLOSE-UP VIEW



PERFECT UNDER TREES