East Bay Nursery

Jack Spratt New Zealand Flax

Phormium tenax 'Jack Spratt'

Height: 18 inches

Spread: 24 inches

Spacing: 20 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 8a

Description:

A smaller variety with sword-like leaves that emerge gray-green and mature to coppery-red; beautiful and eye catching as an accent in the garden or massed along borders; also a great center for a mixed container



Jack Spratt New Zealand Flax foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Jack Spratt New Zealand Flax is primarily valued in the garden for its cascading habit of growth. Its attractive large sword-like leaves emerge green in spring, turning coppery-bronze in color with distinctive red edges the rest of the year.



Jack Spratt New Zealand Flax
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Jack Spratt New Zealand Flax is an open herbaceous evergreen perennial with a shapely form and gracefully arching foliage. Its relatively coarse texture can be used to stand it apart from other garden plants with finer foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Jack Spratt New Zealand Flax is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Jack Spratt New Zealand Flax will grow to be about 18 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 24 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 20 inches apart. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years. As an evegreen perennial, this plant will typically keep its form and foliage year-round.

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Jack Spratt New Zealand Flax 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.