



Albo-striata



All Gold



Aureola



Beni-kaze

Hakonechloa

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Japanese Forest Grass is ideal for a shade garden with its graceful arching foliage that resembles a small clumping bamboo. Deciduous, it turns an intense pink in the fall. It can be slow to establish, but tends to be long lived in the garden.

- **macra 'Albo-striata'**—Broad leaves with white stripes weep and cascade over rocks and edges of containers providing a gentle foliage contrast in both color and form.
- **macra 'All Gold'**—A beautiful, pure gold form that grows in drooping mounds and shows tinges of red and pink as it starts to go dormant for the winter.
- **macra 'Aureola'**—Noted for its weeping, gold and green foliage, 'Aureola' offers seasonal interest when leaves turn an intense pinkish red in the fall. This is not only one of our favorites, but it is the 2009 PPA Perennial Plant of the Year!
- **macra 'Beni-kaze'**—Meaning "red wind" in Japanese, 'Beni-kaze' forms an arching clump of smooth, emerald green leaves that turn various shades of brilliant red as the fall season approaches. It has the same graceful habit and serene texture as other *Hakonechloas*.
- **macra Green**—The original Japanese Forest Grass, this weeping dwarf, with soft, glossy green leaves, turns pinkish red in winter.

USES

Unlike many other grasses, *Hakonechloas* are shade and moisture loving, which makes them very useful garden plants. They are wonderful in containers and an elegant choice for a woodland or Oriental garden, combining well with other shade lovers.

GROWER NOTES

The following information is based on our own experience with this crop in the Pacific Northwest. Growth will vary depending on location, climate, growing medium and cultural practices. As always, where chemical use is involved, read the labels, follow the instructions and practice careful trialing methods.

- Plant in a bark or peat-based, soilless mix with sufficient drainage to prevent waterlogging, while maintaining even moisture. Growth is most vigorous when pH is low: 4.5–5.5. A slow-release feed can be incorporated in the soil at low label rates, or liquid feed can be used during production. Acid feed may help to keep pH low.
- Plant in early spring or in a cold greenhouse in fall. Avoid transplanting during very hot spells and provide shade to guard against foliage burn. Keep the crown at soil level, since planting too deep can cause problems.
- Careful watering is important early in production since plants can be slow to root. Allow to become moderately, but not overly dry between waterings, and monitor pH. Avoid overfeeding to prevent salt buildup.
- There are no significant pest or disease problems, but watch for liverwort and fungus gnats, which can become established on slow-growing, moisture-loving crops.

PLANT DATA

macra 'Albo-striata'

- Height: 12–18"/18"
- Spread: 24"
- Bloom time: insignificant
- USDA Zone: 6(-10°)

macra 'All Gold'

- Height: 12–18"/18"
- Spread: 18"
- Bloom time: insignificant
- USDA Zone: 6(-10°)

macra 'Aureola'

- Height: 12–18"/18"
- Spread: 18"
- Bloom time: insignificant
- USDA Zone: 5(-20°)

macra 'Beni-kaze'

- Height: 24–36"/36"
- Spread: 36"
- Bloom time: insignificant
- USDA Zone: 5(-20°)

macra Green

- Height: 24–36"/36"
- Spread: 36"
- Bloom time: insignificant
- USDA Zone: 5(-20°)

APPROXIMATE FINISH TIMES

- Gallon from 72-cell liner: 36 weeks from fall transplant
- Gallon from 72-cell liner: 12–16 weeks from spring transplant