

Mondo Grass (*Ophiopogon japonicus*)

Mondo grass is also known as monkey grass. It is an evergreen perennial that makes a great groundcover or standalone grass-like plant. It is not a true grass, but it does have strappy leaves and a clumping habit. In summer it brightens up the area with lavender or white flowers that develop into glossy black fruit.

As a lawn substitute in shady to partially sunny locations, it is a great sod alternative that never needs mowing. Mondo grass spreads by stolons, or underground stems, and can slowly form dense colonies. Leaves are ½ inch wide and glossy green or even variegated.



Plant Care / Watering: Mondo grass care is extremely minimal. Plants are light green in full sun but deeper green in shade. Either location works well provided soil is well draining and free of competitive weeds. You can separate clumps into sections, each with several stolons and plant 4 to 12 inches apart depending on how quickly you want the area to fill in. Dwarf Mondo should be planted 2 to 4 inches apart. Cover roots and stolons with loose soil but avoid covering the crown of the plant. Keep soil moderately moist during establishment. Once established, you can pretty much forget about the plant unless you want to go check out its seasonal beauty, or it is time to divide it.

References:

<https://www.gardeningknowhow.com>