



Emerald Goddess Gardens emeraldgoddessgardens.com

- Botanical Name: *Juncus effesus spiralis* 'Big Twister'
- Common Name: Unicorn Rush, Corkscrew Rush
- Plant Family:
- Mature Size: 12 inches
- Growth Habit: Upright
- Bloom Color: Yellowish Green to Brown
- Bloom Form: Cyme
- Bloom Time: Late Summer
- Water Needs: High
- Light Needs: Full Sun to Light Shade
- Recommended Zones: 5a, 6, 7, 8, 9b
- Key Features: Unique Twisted Leaves, Tolerant of High Moisture, Easy to Grow
- Suggested Uses: Bog Garden, Miniature, Border, Potted
- Growers Notes :



Juncus effesus spiralis 'Big Twister' or **Unicorn Rush** is a unique grasslike plant that is exceedingly versatile. This plant thrives in wet, bog-like conditions, but is also considered drought tolerant once established; it also is resistant to frost and high temperatures. Unicorn Rush only reaches about 12 inches at maturity, but its wavy spiraled leaves add magic and whimsy as they grow in a unique 'unicorn horn' habit.

Juncus 'Big Twister' grows upright with vibrant and slender green leaves that twist and turn among each other to create a hairlike appearance. Place Juncus grass in a small pot to watch it grow in a tight ball or allow it to thrive in the landscape where it will add visual interest year round.

There are more than 200 species of *Juncus* in cultivation. These rushes are used widely in bio-retention areas and wastewater treatment areas. These plants are well known for supporting a very diverse microbiome that is highly effective at eliminating water impurities. Mass planting efforts of *Juncus* near the edges of ponds and areas with high water fluctuation are successful as this genus can survive both high waters and periods of drought.

Direct planting of 4 inch starters is not recommended. For success with your new **Unicorn Rush** follow these helpful tips:

- Plant in well draining soil.
- Locate in full sun or partial shade
- Provide supplemental irrigation until well established.
- Feed a good quality bloom boosting fertilize with the initial planting and yearly thereafter.
- Protect from frost and freeze until very well established.

For quick answers to your growing or planting questions, just email us at service@emeraldgoddessgardens.com

If you don't know your USDA Planting Zone, you can check the map on our website site at emeraldgoddessgardens.com

Toxicity information generally known in the horticultural trade and gardening circles, if known, is provided for reference purposes only. Medical and/or Horticulture experts in the field of Plant Toxicology should be consulted for specific and reliable information. The absence of information does not mean or imply that a plant is not toxic, only that no information is generally known by us.

Care of Your New Ground Cover Plant

Here are a few basic guidelines for handling and caring for your new plant:

Most 4 inch starter size Ground Cover and Bedding type plants can be successfully planted directly into the landscape, providing the danger of frost and freeze has past, the soil in the planting area is turned and prepared, and adequate attention to irrigation and general care is provided.

Check the recommended USDA Zone Range for the plant. Many gardeners are able to successfully grow plants outside their recommended Zones, but this is dependent upon providing the type of environment and care the plant needs.

- Immediately repot or plant the plant. Do not hold plants in the shipping pots for extended periods.
- Select a location with the soil type and moisture level the plants prefer.
- Apply a high quality, slow release plant food according to the label directions. Do not use hot, all chemical fertilizers like 6-6-6 or 10-10-10.
- Plantings in full sun will take extra attention until established.
- Maintain consistent and uniform moisture in the soil. Take care not to over or under water.
- Packing crystals may be reused to conserve water, but do so with caution as they hold 6000 times their weight in water.
- If reusing the crystals, mix and incorporate them thoroughly throughout the planting media.
- If repotting, be sure the pot can drain and that the bottom of the pot does not sit submerged in water for more than a few hours.
- Supplement feed with a water soluble plant food every 2-3 weeks according to the label directions.
- Prune or pinch lightly and often when the plant is young and actively growing to strengthen the central stalk and encourage branching and build uniform shape.
- Monitor for signs of disease or insects and treat accordingly.
- Protect from frost and freeze, as even cold tolerant plants can be damaged by cold, and tropicals will perform better, flower earlier, and live longer within their Zone Range when protected from cold temperatures.

Many tropical and subtropical plants can be grown as potted plants indefinitely, and can be successfully wintered over indoors in colder climates, so long as they are moved indoors well ahead of temps into the 30°F's, are maintained in warm environment (minimum 40°F) with adequate, full spectrum light, consistent soil moisture is maintained, and any pest or disease issue are promptly and properly addressed.

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