



FYN Garden Q & A Series

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FYN TOPIC: Use Liriope, Mimosa for Compact Border

Question: I'm looking for a compact border plant, maybe 6" tall that will border my sidewalk and driveway. I'd like something that will bounce back if stepped on. I prefer a green plant, maybe with flowers. Dee, Ft Myers

Answer: Although all plants will incur some damage if walked on, some are more forgiving than others. The following two suggestions fall into the forgiving category. Liriope or lilyturf (*liriope muscari*) is available in nurseries as a tidy, grass-like looking groundcover. It grows one foot tall. Once plants are well established, it is tough enough to be infrequently stepped on when maintained in part or full shade. Sunshine Mimosa (*Mimosa strigillosa*) is a native Florida plant with small pink flower resembling a powderpuff. Growing only three inches high, its flowers stand taller (6") and can be mowed off when they turn brown. Grow it only in full sun to part shade. It will spread rapidly into bordering lawns. To see a well behaved and recent planting along a parking lot, visit the Fort Myers Beach Public Library, 2755 Estero Blvd.

Helpful Links

<http://www.floridayards.org>
<http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu>
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/>
<http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu>



liriope muscari



Sunshine Mimosa, (*mimosa strigillosa*)

Thomas Becker is an extension agent for the Florida Yards and Neighborhoods (FYN) program at the Lee County Extension Service. Submit questions by calling the Horticulture Help Desk at 239-533-7504 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. or by emailing Extgardener@leegov.com. Visit his Web page at <http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/FYN/FYNHome.shtml>

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