

## FAQ about Growing Vetiver

Growing Vetiver is pretty straightforward if you're used to growing plants. But, even experienced growers can have questions regarding Vetiver. Some of those questions are answered in the Planting and Growing Information Sheet that comes with each order. But, sometimes you have questions to be answered before you purchase. I hope this FAQ will answer some of those questions.

### What Variety do I sell?

I sell a variety called Sunshine. It is completely non-invasive. It does not run nor does it seed out. It stays put where you plant it. If you don't dig it up to divide it or to harvest the roots, the clump will grow bigger over time. The grass can reach 8' tall if it doesn't freeze back in the winter. If it does freeze back in the Winter, it can still grow to 5' during the growing season.

### How Much Vetiver Do I Need?

This depends, of course, on how you're using your Vetiver. For erosion control, slips should be planted about 6 inches to 1 foot apart in rows about 3 feet apart. Stagger the plants in the rows to

create a diamond pattern, so the water is slowed down and you don't create a channel for the water to run through. Eventually, debris and soil will build up behind the plants and create a better barrier to slow the water. Ideally, you'll want at least 2 rows of plants.

### **How Big Does Vetiver Get?**

If you live in a frost free area, your Vetiver can grow to 8 feet tall and one clump, over the years can grow to 4 - 6 feet wide or more! Big!

If you live where your plants freeze down, but the roots survive the Winter, your plants will likely attain a height of 4 - 5 feet during the growing season with a width of maybe 3 feet.

If you're growing in a container, one little slip will fill a gallon size pot in 4 - 6 months if grown outdoors and given adequate water and fertilizer. Vetiver roots grow very deep, so the roots will quickly reach the bottom of your pot.

### **How Much Water Does Vetiver Need?**

Vetiver is a grass and will use up considerable amounts of water, given the chance. While establishing your Vetiver, water it as you would any newly planted plant- once or twice a week depending on the temperature and your soil drainage. Once

established, Vetiver is very drought tolerant due to its deep root system. That said, your plant will flourish for you with regular watering.

Container grown Vetiver needs a little more attention due to the fact it is growing in a pot. Water when the soil mix seems dry.

Cut back on the water if your Vetiver seems dormant in the Winter or the top has frozen back. Water it occasionally if you are not getting rain, but remember, a plant with no leaves is not taking up water for use. You don't want to drown the roots.

### **How Much Fertilizer Does Vetiver Need?**

Being a grass, Vetiver responds well to a high nitrogen grass food or all purpose fertilizer. In-ground plants should be fertilized in the Spring when new growth is showing.

Container grown plants will need fertilizer about 2 - 3 times per year: Spring, Mid-Summer and Fall in frost free areas. Do not fertilize if your plant is dormant or the tops have frozen back. Only fertilize during periods of active growth.

### **How Much Light Does Vetiver Need?**

Vetiver loves sun and lots of it. Especially if you're growing in-ground, plant your Vetiver where it gets all day sun. Even in the

Southern US, where it's really hot in the Summer, Vetiver can handle the sun.

Container grown plants will appreciate a little afternoon shade in the Summer.

**More Questions? Call, Text or eMail me:**

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