

Ophiopogon intermedius



Unleash the Power of Division: Propagating Your Ophiopogon Intermedius (Mondo Grass)

Ophiopogon intermedius, more commonly known as Mondo grass, is a popular groundcover renowned for its elegant foliage and hardiness. If you're looking to expand your Mondo grass coverage or share this resilient beauty with friends, propagation is the way to go! And the best part? It's surprisingly easy, even for beginners.

This guide will delve into the most effective method for propagating Ophiopogon intermedius: **division**.

Why Division Works Best

While some plants readily propagate through seeds or cuttings, Ophiopogon intermedius spreads naturally through underground rhizomes. This makes division, the process of separating a mature plant into smaller sections, the most natural and successful propagation method.

When to Divide

Spring or early fall are the optimal times for dividing your Mondo grass. This allows the divisions ample time to establish themselves before facing the stresses of extreme heat or cold.

What You'll Need:

- **Sharp, clean garden knife or shears:** This ensures clean cuts and minimizes the risk of disease transmission.
- **Gardening gloves:** Protects your hands from the plant's sometimes irritating sap.
- **Potting mix:** Choose a well-draining potting mix, or amend your garden soil with compost to improve drainage.
- **Pots or prepared planting area:** Ensure good drainage in your chosen location.

Step-by-Step Guide to Dividing Ophiopogon Intermedius:

1. **Prepare the Parent Plant:** Water the Mondo grass thoroughly a day or two before dividing it. This minimizes stress and helps the plant recover faster.
2. **Lift and Divide:** Carefully dig around the clump of Mondo grass, loosening the soil until you can lift the entire plant. Use your hands or a garden fork to gently separate the plant into smaller sections. Each division should have a healthy amount of roots and foliage.
3. **Trim and Pot/Plant:** Trim any damaged or excessively long roots with your clean shears. Plant the divisions in pots with well-draining potting mix or directly into your garden, ensuring the crown of the plant (where the leaves meet the roots) is level with the soil surface.
4. **Water and Care:** Water your newly planted divisions thoroughly, and keep the soil consistently moist but not waterlogged as they establish themselves. Provide partial shade, especially during the hottest hours of

the day.

Tips for Success:

- **Divide in groups:** Divisions with more roots and shoots tend to establish themselves more quickly.
- **Don't over-divide:** While you can divide your Mondo grass into smaller sections, larger divisions tend to be more robust.
- **Be patient:** It may take several weeks for the divisions to show significant new growth.

Enjoy the Rewards!

Dividing *Ophiopogon intermedius* isn't just a practical way to fill your garden; it's also a rewarding experience. With a little time and care, you can multiply your Mondo grass, creating lush, low-maintenance landscapes. So why not grab your gardening tools and unleash your inner propagator? Your garden will thank you for it!