

Common Names: Grape Hyacinth Plant Type: Bulb Light Requirements: Full Sun-Partial Shade Height: 4-8 inches Bloom Time: Spring Hardiness Zones: 3-9

Photo: Longfield Gardens

Muscari armeniacum

Muscari armeniacum are flowering bulbs in the Lily (Liliaceae) family. These easily grown bulbs are native to the Mediterranean region and southwest Asia. Their common name, Grape Hyacinth, comes from the resemblance of the small, bell-shaped flowers to upside-down clusters of grapes.

Muscari begins growing in the early spring with grass-like foliage, soon followed by the flowers. After flowering the foliage dies back in early summer. In the fall, the foliage may start growing again as the weather cools- it will persist where winters are mild. Muscari grows best in sun to part-shade, with cool and moist conditions. Flowers bloom from the bottom up.

Muscari does well at the front of the garden and tend to look best in masses. They multiply easily and look great alongside daffodils and tulips. Because of their tendency to spread, they may lend themselves to a weedy look, but their flowers are so cheerful it's hard to dislike them. Muscari can be divided easily by digging up and redistributing the bulbs to other areas of the garden.

References:

https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/muscari-armeniacum/ https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/articles/grape-hyacinth-muscari-armeniacum/ https://www.uaex.uada.edu/yard-garden/resource-library/plant-week/hyacinth-grape-4-6-07.aspx

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