

**Plant Name:** Carex buchananii "red rooster"  
**Common Name:** New Zealand leatherleaf sedge

**Plant Type:** Grass

**Height:** 50-75cm  
**Spread:** 30-60cm



**Species Data (applies to all plants in this Plant Species)**

Species: buchananii

**Plant Data (applies to THIS plant only)**

Carex buchananii "Red Rooster"  
Common Name: New Zealand leatherleaf sedge.

Species: buchananii  
Cultivar: Red Rooster  
Hardy Perennial.

Foliage: Rusty copper-bronze all year  
Height: 50 - 75cm (20 - 30")  
Spread: 30 - 60cm (18 - 24")  
Position: Full sun preferred.  
Aspect: All aspects. Exposed or Sheltered  
Soil: Light, moderately fertile, moist but well-drained soil.

The rich, rusty copper-bronze, fine leaved foliage makes Carex Red Rooster one of the most ornamental coloured grasses available. It is an unusual plant, popular with designers because of its great contrast capabilities. Tufted and erect in growth, the narrow foliage is copper-bronze coloured twelve months of the year.

Carex adapts to most soil types, they are excellent used to give texture in the perennial garden or as a small-scale ground cover. The foliage is outstanding planted with silver foliage plants, brightly coloured flowers or variegated grasses. Plant in full sun, but keep well-watered during hot weather. Cut back to 10cm (4") in early spring as new growth appears.

**Sowing indoors:**

Sow on to the surface of a free-draining, moist seed-sowing compost and cover with 3-4mm (¼ inch) of vermiculite. Do not exclude light as this helps germination. Keep at around 15-20°C (60-68°F)

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Germination should take place in approximately 2 weeks. Maintain a temperature of 15°C (60°F) until the seedlings are established

Once seedlings are large enough to handle, take a small clump of seedlings and put them all in a one-litre pot of gritty compost. They will form a bushy plant and be ready to go into the garden in summer. Grow in sun and in well drained soil.

Direct sowing:

Ensure all ground is weed free and well prepared before sowing. Sow the seed 2-3cm (¾-1¼”) deep in rows 60-90cm (25-35”) apart with a distance of 10-30cm (4-12 inches) between the plants. The rate and speed of germination will depend on the soil temperature and weather conditions and could be from 7 to 21 days.

Aftercare:

Cut back old foliage to 10cm (4”) in spring as new growth appears in the centres of plants.

Feed in summer with single dressing of a dilute general fertiliser. Even without an annual feed, most grasses will put on a first-rate show. The more nitrogen grasses receive the greener and further they'll grow. Do not over do it...their spreading habit is fine in a field, but in a garden they may become too lush and the flower quality may suffer.

Plant Uses:

Beds and borders, City and Courtyard Gardens, Containers, Cottage/Informal, Foliage, Prairie planting. Flower arrangements. Low Maintenance or Mediterranean