

Tasmanian Angel Acanthus



Tasmanian Angel Acanthus *Acanthus mollis* 'Tasmanian Angel'

Plant Height: 3 feet

Flower Height: 5 feet

Spread: 4 feet

Sunlight: ○ ● ●

Hardiness Zone: 7b

Other Names: Bear's Breeches

Description:

Large, jagged leaves splashed with spectacular white mottling fade to cream with age; beautiful spikes of pink/white flowers tower over the foliage; a dramatic accent plant for the garden

Ornamental Features

Tasmanian Angel Acanthus features showy spikes of pink hooded flowers with white overtones rising above the foliage in late summer. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its attractive large deeply cut lobed leaves remain green in colour with showy white variegation throughout the year.

Landscape Attributes

Tasmanian Angel Acanthus is an open herbaceous evergreen perennial with a rigidly upright and towering form. Its wonderfully bold, coarse texture can be very effective in a balanced garden composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and should be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Spiny

Tasmanian Angel Acanthus is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting



Tasmanian Angel Acanthus flowers
Photo courtesy of Terra Nova Nurseries



Tasmanian Angel Acanthus foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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Planting & Growing

Tasmanian Angel Acanthus will grow to be about 3 feet tall at maturity extending to 5 feet tall with the flowers, with a spread of 4 feet. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 20 years. As an evergreen perennial, this plant will typically keep its form and foliage year-round.

This plant performs well in both full sun and full shade. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in both summer and winter to conserve soil moisture and protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Tasmanian Angel Acanthus is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden. Be aware that in our climate, most plants cannot be expected to survive the winter if left in containers outdoors, and this plant is no exception. Contact our experts for more information on how to protect it over the winter months.