Spider Plant

Chlorophytum comosum

Height: 24 inches

Spread: 24 inches

Sunlight: ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: 9

Other Names: Airplane Plant

Description:

Probably the most cultivated houseplant in the world, this variety is grown primarily for its interesting foliage; great for containers, or cascading from hanging baskets; tolerates drought and deep shade, but perfers bright indirect sun

Ornamental Features

Spider Plant's attractive grassy leaves remain dark green in color with prominent white stripes and tinges of lime green throughout the season on a plant with an upright spreading habit of growth.

Landscape Attributes

Spider Plant is an herbaceous perennial with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its medium texture blends into the garden, but can always be balanced by a couple of finer or coarser plants for an effective composition.

This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and should not require much pruning, except when necessary, such as to remove dieback. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Insects

Spider Plant is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting
- Hanging Baskets



Spider Plant foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Spider Plant flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Spider Plant will grow to be about 24 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 24 inches. 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 10 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!

This plant does best in partial shade to full shade. Keep it well away from hot, dry locations that receive direct afternoon sun or which get reflected sunlight, such as against the south side of a white wall. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist growing conditions, but will not tolerate any standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This species is not originally from North America. It can be propagated by multiplication of the underground bulbs.

Spider Plant is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor containers and hanging baskets. 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.