Chequers Spotted Dead Nettle

Lamium maculatum 'Chequers'



Chequers Spotted Dead Nettle flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 12 inches

Spread: 24 inches

Sunlight: ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: 2

Other Names: Deadnettle, Creeping Lamium

Ornamental Features

Chequers Spotted Dead Nettle has masses of beautiful spikes of violet flowers rising above the foliage from mid spring to early fall, which are most effective when planted in groupings. Its attractive oval leaves remain forest green in color with prominent silver stripes throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Chequers Spotted Dead Nettle is a dense herbaceous perennial with a ground-hugging habit of growth. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

This is a high maintenance plant that will require regular care and upkeep, and can be pruned at anytime. It is a good choice for attracting butterflies to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Spreading

Chequers Spotted Dead Nettle is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Border Edging
- Groundcover
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Chequers Spotted Dead Nettle will grow to be about 12 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 fast 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 a location that gets morning sunlight but is shaded from the hot afternoon sun, although it will also grow in full shade. Keep it 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 an amazingly adaptable plant, tolerating both dry conditions and even some standing water. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for a low-water garden or xeriscape application. 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 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.

Chequers Spotted Dead Nettle is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its spreading habit of growth, it is ideally suited for use as a 'spiller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the edges where it can spill gracefully over the pot. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.