Garlic Vine

Bignonia aequinoctialis



Garlic Vine flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 20 feet

Spread: 24 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 9

Other Names: False Garlic, syn. Cydista aequinoctialis

Description:

A vigorous evergreen climbing shrub presenting clusters of purple trumpet flowers that fade to lavender and white; leaves smell like garlic, only when crushed; needs a sturdy structure for support; great for covering walls and fences

Ornamental Features

Garlic Vine features showy fragrant purple trumpet-shaped flowers with lavender overtones along the branches from late spring to early fall. It has green evergreen foliage. The fragrant oval leaves remain green throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Garlic Vine is a multi-stemmed evergreen woody vine with a twining and trailing habit of growth. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

This woody vine will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. It is a good choice for attracting bees, butterflies and hummingbirds to your yard. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Spreading

Garlic Vine is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Garlic Vine will grow to be about 20 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 24 inches. As a climbing vine, it tends to be leggy near the base and should be underplanted with low-growing facer plants. It should be planted near a fence, trellis or other landscape structure where it can be trained to grow upwards on it, or allowed to trail off a retaining wall or slope. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 20 years.

This woody vine does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This species is not originally from North America.

Garlic Vine makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use 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. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when grown in a container, it may not perform exactly as indicated on the tag - this is to be expected. Also note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.