Bigfoot Water Clover

Marsilea macropoda



Bigfoot Water Clover foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 8 inches

Spread: 12 inches

Spacing: 8 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: 7

Other Names: Clover Fern, Largefoot Pepperwort

Description:

A vigorous perennial presenting attractive, four-leaf clover like leaves that eventually will form large mats in wet sand or mud; great for poorly drained, shady sites, edges of ponds, or bog gardens; a spore producing plant that does not flower

Ornamental Features

Bigfoot Water Clover's attractive tomentose fan-shaped compound leaves emerge chartreuse in spring, turning bluish-green in color with hints of silver throughout the season on a plant with a spreading habit of growth.

Landscape Attributes

Bigfoot Water Clover 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 relatively low maintenance plant, and is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Bigfoot Water Clover is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Water Gardens
- Groundcover
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens
- Container Planting
- Bog Gardens

Planting & Growing

Bigfoot Water Clover will grow to be about 8 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 12 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 8 inches apart. Its foliage tends to remain low and dense right to the ground. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 5 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 performs well in both full sun and full shade. It prefers to grow in moist to wet soil, and will even tolerate some standing water. 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 somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is native to parts of North America.

Bigfoot Water Clover 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.