Ritterkreuz Ivy

Hedera helix 'Ritterkreuz'



Ritterkreuz Ivy foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 6 inches

Spread: 10 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: 5

Other Names: English Ivy, Bird's Foot Ivy

Description:

An evergreen climber or dense groundcover with beautiful green, lobed foliage with lighter veins; benefits from protection from sun and wind in winter, very adaptable and vigorous; great to cover walls, trees and fences

Ornamental Features

Ritterkreuz Ivy has attractive green foliage with light green veins on a plant with a spreading habit of growth. The glossy lobed leaves are highly ornamental and remain green throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Ritterkreuz Ivy is a multi-stemmed evergreen woody vine with a twining and trailing habit of growth. Its relatively coarse texture can be used to stand it apart from other landscape plants with finer foliage.

This woody vine will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and can be pruned at anytime. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Spreading

Ritterkreuz Ivy is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

Ritterkreuz Ivy will grow to be only 6 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 10 feet. 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 medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 30 years.

This woody vine performs well in both full sun and full 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, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. Consider covering it with a thick layer of mulch in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America, and parts of it are known to be toxic to humans and animals, so care should be exercised in planting it around children and pets.

Ritterkreuz Ivy 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. 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.