Japanese Spurge

Pachysandra terminalis

Height: 12 inches

Spread: 24 inches

Sunlight: ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: 4

Description:

A highly regarded evergreen groundcover, exceptional performance in deep shade, actually dislikes hot sun, one of the few that does well beneath mature shade trees; prefers highly organic, acidic soils, will benefit from snow cover in colder regions

Ornamental Features

Japanese Spurge features tiny spikes of white flowers rising above the foliage in mid spring. Its glossy narrow leaves remain forest green in color throughout the year.

Landscape Attributes

Japanese Spurge is a dense herbaceous evergreen perennial with a ground-hugging 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. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Spreading

Japanese Spurge is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Groundcover
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens



Japanese Spurge
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Japanese Spurge flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Japanese Spurge 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 slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 20 years. As an evegreen perennial, this plant will typically keep its form and foliage year-round.

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 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 particular about its soil conditions, with a strong preference for poor, acidic 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 applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This species is not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division.