Creeping Savory

Satureja spicigera



Creeping Savory
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 6 inches

Spread: 24 inches

Spacing: 12 inches

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 6

Description:

A low growing, spreading variety that cascades from patio containers, hanging baskets and used for groundcover; small, narrow green foliage with a strong aroma and flavor is perfect for marinades, dried for seasonings or added to sauces

Edible Qualities

Creeping Savory is a perennial herb that is commonly grown for its edible qualities, although it does have ornamental merits as well. The fragrant narrow green leaves can be harvested at any time in the season. The leaves have a savory taste and a pungent fragrance.

The leaves are most often used in the following ways:

- Cooking
- Drying
- Seasoning

Features & Attributes

Creeping Savory features subtle white flowers in mid summer. Its fragrant narrow leaves remain green in color throughout the season.

This is an herbaceous perennial herb with a spreading, ground-hugging habit of growth. It brings an extremely fine and delicate texture to the garden composition and should be used to full effect. This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and can be pruned at anytime. 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

Aside from its primary use as an edible, Creeping Savory is sutiable for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover
- Herb Gardens
- Container Planting
- Hanging Baskets

Planting & Growing

Creeping Savory will grow to be only 6 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 24 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 12 inches apart. It grows at a medium 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 is quite ornamental as well as edible, and is as much at home in a landscape or flower garden as it is in a designated herb garden. It should only be grown in full sunlight. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist locations, and should do just fine under typical garden conditions. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in poor soils. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This species is not originally from North America.

Creeping Savory is a good choice for the edible garden, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor containers and hanging baskets. 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.