Australian Violet

Viola hederacea



Australian Violet flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Plant Height: 6 inches

Flower Height: 8 inches

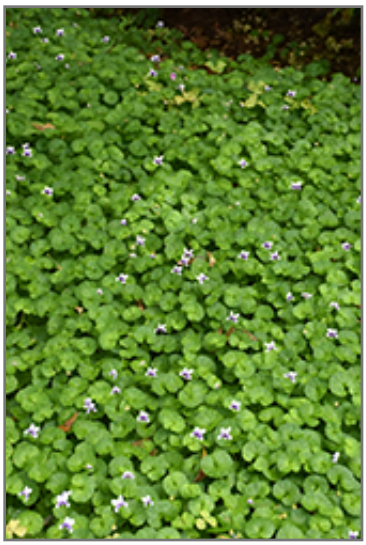
Spread: 16 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 7

Description:

A fantastic, cool weather loving selection, producing lovely white blooms with pale violet centers, over a creeping mat of glossy green foliage; tolerates some foot traffic, great for dainty groundcover or used as borders in the garden; repeat bloomer



Australian Violet in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Australian Violet has masses of beautiful white flowers with violet overtones at the ends of the stems from early spring to early fall, which are most effective when planted in groupings. Its glossy oval leaves remain dark green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Australian Violet is an 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 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. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Australian Violet is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Australian Violet will grow to be only 6 inches tall at maturity extending to 8 inches tall with the flowers, with a spread of 16 inches. It grows at a fast rate, and tends to be biennial, meaning that it puts on vegetative growth the first year, flowers the second, and then dies. 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 does best in full sun to partial shade. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. This plant should not require much in the way of fertilizing once established, although it may appreciate a shot of general-purpose fertilizer from time to time early in the growing season. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. Consider covering it with a thick layer of mulch in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This species is not originally from North America.

Australian Violet 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.