# Polka Dot Plant

***Hypoestes phyllostachya***



*Polka Dot Plant foliage*
*Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder*

Height: 12 inches

Spread: 12 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

**Description:**

A low maintenance and mounded selection with great heat and shade tolerance; charming green foliage with heavy pink spotting and speckling adds color, contrast and texture to beds, borders or containers; drought tolerant once established

**Ornamental Features**

Polka Dot Plant's attractive pointy leaves remain dark green in color with distinctive pink spots throughout the year on a plant with a mounded habit of growth.

**Landscape Attributes**

Polka Dot Plant is an herbaceous annual with a mounded form. 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 is a relatively low maintenance plant, 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.

Polka Dot Plant is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover
- Container Planting
- Hanging Baskets

**Planting & Growing**

Polka Dot Plant will grow to be about 12 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 12 inches. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. Although it's not a true annual, this fast-growing plant can be expected to behave as an annual in our climate if left outdoors over the winter, usually needing replacement the following year. As such, gardeners should take into consideration that it will perform differently than it would in its native habitat.

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. This species is not originally from North America. It can be propagated by cuttings.

Polka Dot Plant is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor containers and hanging baskets. It is often used as a 'filler' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, providing a canvas of foliage against which the thriller plants stand out. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.