European Wild Ginger

Asarum europaeum



European Wild Ginger
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 8 inches

Spread: 18 inches

Sunlight: ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: 4

Other Names: Hexastylis europaea

Description:

This spreader features lovely glossy green leaves; does well in moist, shady areas, can be used as a shade groundcover, an excellent alternative to more invasive species

Ornamental Features

European Wild Ginger's attractive glossy heart-shaped leaves remain dark green in color throughout the year on a plant with an upright spreading habit of growth.



European Wild Ginger foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

European Wild Ginger is an herbaceous evergreen perennial with an upright spreading 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 is a relatively low maintenance plant, and is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. 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.

European Wild Ginger is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- General Garden Use
- Groundcover
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens

Planting & Growing

European Wild Ginger will grow to be about 8 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 18 inches. Its foliage tends to remain low and dense right to the ground. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 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 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. It is particular about its soil conditions, with a strong preference for rich, acidic soils. It is quite intolerant of urban pollution, therefore inner city or urban streetside plantings are best avoided, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in both summer and winter to conserve soil moisture and protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This species is 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. It can be propagated by division.