Japanese Wild Ginger

Asarum asperum



Japanese Wild Ginger foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 4 inches

Spread: 12 inches

Sunlight: ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: 5

Description:

This evergreen clump-forming wild ginger is quite hardy and durable; each plant displays different varigation patterns on the leaves; a vigorous grower that makes an impressive low maintenance groundcover for a shaded moist area

Ornamental Features

Japanese Wild Ginger's attractive glossy heart-shaped leaves remain bluish-green in color with showy gray variegation throughout the season on a plant with a spreading habit of growth.

Landscape Attributes

Japanese Wild Ginger is an herbaceous perennial with a ground-hugging habit of growth. Its relatively coarse texture can be used to stand it apart from other garden plants with finer foliage.

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.

Japanese Wild Ginger is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- General Garden Use
- Groundcover
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens

Planting & Growing

Japanese Wild Ginger will grow to be only 4 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 12 inches. Its foliage tends to remain low and dense right to the ground. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 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 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 requires an evenly moist well-drained soil for optimal growth. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich 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. It can be propagated by division.