The Flower Bin
Garden Center & Nursery & Gift House

1805 Nelson Road
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Phone: 303-772-3454
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Swedish Ivy - New For 2026!

Plectranthus forsteri 'Marginatus'

Height: 10 inches

Spread: 3 feet

Spacing: 24 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: P. forsteri Marginata, Spur Flower

Description:

Attractive variety grown primarily for its deep green foliage with white edges; trailing form may be occasionally trimmed to maintain shape; a lovely addition to containers or hanging baskets; heat tolerant

Ornamental Features

Swedish Ivy's attractive serrated heart-shaped leaves emerge chartreuse in spring, turning forest green in color with distinctive white edges the rest of the year on a plant with a trailing habit of growth.

Landscape Attributes

Swedish Ivy is an herbaceous annual with a trailing habit of growth, eventually spilling over the edges of hanging baskets and containers. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and can be pruned at anytime. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Swedish Ivy is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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



Swedish Ivy
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Swedish Ivy foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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Planting & Growing

Swedish Ivy will grow to be about 10 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 3 feet. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 24 inches apart. Its foliage tends to remain low and dense right to the ground. Although it's not a true annual, this 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 is very adaptable to both dry and moist growing conditions, but will not tolerate any standing water. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.

Swedish Ivy is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor containers and hanging baskets. Because of its trailing 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.