Homestead Gardens Plant Finder

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Cast Iron Plant

Aspidistra elatior



Cast Iron Plant
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 24 inches

Spread: 3 feet

Sunlight: ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: Bar Room Plant

Description:

This variety is as tough as its name implies; dark green blade like foliage forms in rosettes and masses to make an excellent deep shade groundcover or container accent; a very tolerant plant that is easy to grow and maintain; a perfect house plant

Ornamental Features

Cast Iron Plant's attractive sword-like leaves remain dark green in color throughout the year on a plant with an upright spreading habit of growth.

Landscape Attributes

Cast Iron Plant is a dense herbaceous annual with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its wonderfully bold, coarse texture can be very effective in a balanced garden composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and should not require much pruning, except when necessary, such as to remove dieback. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Cast Iron Plant is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting



Cast Iron Plant foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Cast Iron Plant will grow to be about 24 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 3 feet. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. 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.



Cast Iron Plant
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

This plant does best in partial shade to shade. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. 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 applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This species is not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division.

Cast Iron Plant is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.