Homestead Gardens Plant Finder

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Variegated Chameleon Plant

Houttuynia cordata 'Variegata'



Variegated Chameleon Plant foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 12 inches

Spread: 3 feet

Spacing: 32 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: 4a

Description:

A low growing and vigorous variety, featuring deep green foliage with touches of pinks, creams and yellows; best color if planted in full sun; control the spread in hanging baskets or containers, or allow it grow naturally for beautiful groundcover

Ornamental Features

Variegated Chameleon Plant's attractive heart-shaped leaves remain dark green in color with showy creamy white variegation and tinges of rose throughout the season on a plant with a spreading habit of growth.

Landscape Attributes

Variegated Chameleon Plant is a dense herbaceous perennial with a ground-hugging 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 high maintenance plant that will require regular care and upkeep, and can be pruned at anytime. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Invasive

Variegated Chameleon Plant is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Groundcover
- Container Planting
- Hanging Baskets



Variegated Chameleon Plant flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Variegated Chameleon Plant will grow to be about 12 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 32 inches apart. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. 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 performs well in both full sun and full shade. It is quite adaptable, prefering to grow in average to wet conditions, and will even tolerate some 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. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Variegated Chameleon Plant 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 spreading 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.