

Asian Skunk Cabbage



Asian Skunk Cabbage *Lysichiton camtschatcense*

Height: 14 inches
Spread: 14 inches
Spacing: 12 inches
Sunlight: ○
Hardiness Zone: 6b

Description:

This Asian variety features unusual calla lily-like flowers; at home in very wet boggy soil that has poor drainage; will grow well on a pond edge where soil is wet and loamy; pungent fragrance when in bloom may attract insects; leaves are large and showy

Ornamental Features

Asian Skunk Cabbage features solitary white heart-shaped flowers at the ends of the stems in mid summer before the leaves. Its attractive large crinkled round leaves remain green in colour throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Asian Skunk Cabbage is an open herbaceous perennial with tall flower stalks held atop a low mound of foliage. Its relatively coarse texture can be used to stand it apart from other garden plants with finer foliage.

This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and should not require much pruning, except when necessary, such as to remove dieback. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Insects

Asian Skunk Cabbage is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens
- Container Planting



Asian Skunk Cabbage flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Asian Skunk Cabbage in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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Planting & Growing

Asian Skunk Cabbage will grow to be about 14 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 14 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 12 inches apart. 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 should only be grown in full sunlight. It prefers to grow in moist to wet soil, and will even tolerate some standing water. It is particular about its soil conditions, with a strong preference for poor, acidic soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. 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.

Asian Skunk Cabbage is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. It is often used as a 'filler' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, providing a mass of flowers and foliage against which the larger thriller plants stand out. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden. Be aware that in our climate, most plants cannot be expected to survive the winter if left in containers outdoors, and this plant is no exception. Contact our experts for more information on how to protect it over the winter months.