

Lakeshore Garden Centres

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Garlic Vine



Garlic Vine

Bignonia aequinoctialis

Height: 20 feet

Spread: 24 inches

Sunlight: ○ ●

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: False Garlic, syn. *Cydista aequinoctialis*

Description:

A vigorous evergreen climbing shrub presenting clusters of purple trumpet flowers that fade to lavender and white; leaves smell like garlic, only when crushed; needs a sturdy structure for support; great for covering walls and fences

Ornamental Features

Garlic Vine features showy fragrant purple trumpet-shaped flowers with lavender overtones along the branches from late spring to early fall. Its fragrant oval leaves remain green in colour throughout the year.

Landscape Attributes

Garlic Vine is a multi-stemmed annual 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 plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. It is a good choice for attracting bees, butterflies and hummingbirds to your yard. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Spreading

Garlic Vine is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting



Garlic Vine flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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Planting & Growing

Garlic Vine will grow to be about 20 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 24 inches. As a climbing vine, it should either be planted near a fence, trellis or other landscape structure where it can be trained to grow upwards on it, or allowed to trail off a retaining wall or slope. Although it's not a true annual, this fast-growing 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 prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This species is not originally from North America.

Garlic Vine is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. 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. 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.