



## White Surprise Varigated Caryopteris

*Caryopteris x clandonensis 'White  
Surprise'*

Height: 3 feet

Spread: 3 feet

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 4

Other Names: Varigated Bluebeard, Blue Spirea, Blue  
Mist Shrub

### Description:

Light, airy shrub with light-blue flowers held over  
blue-green and white variegated leaves; foliage has fuzzy  
undersides and is fragrant when crushed; a true butterfly  
magnet for the garden

### Ornamental Features

White Surprise Varigated Caryopteris features dainty  
cymes of lavender flowers along the branches from late  
summer to early fall, which emerge from distinctive blue  
flower buds. The flowers are excellent for cutting. It has  
attractive bluish-green foliage edged in white which  
emerges buttery yellow in spring. The fuzzy oval leaves  
are highly ornamental but do not develop any appreciable  
fall color.

### Landscape Attributes

White Surprise Varigated Caryopteris is an open  
multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with an upright  
spreading habit of growth. Its relatively fine texture sets it  
apart from other landscape plants with less refined  
foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance shrub, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. It is a good choice for attracting birds and butterflies to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

White Surprise Varigated Caryopteris is recommended for the following landscape applications;



*White Surprise Varigated Caryopteris  
flowers*

*Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder*



*White Surprise Varigated Caryopteris*

*Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder*

- Mass Planting
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover
- Container Planting

### **Planting & Growing**

White Surprise Varigated Caryopteris will grow to be about 3 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 3 feet. It tends to fill out right to the ground and therefore doesn't necessarily require facer plants in front. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 20 years.

This shrub should only be grown in full sunlight. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid.

White Surprise Varigated Caryopteris makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use 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 grown in a container, it may not perform exactly as indicated on the tag - this is to be expected. Also note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.